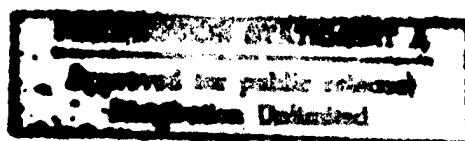


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21 July 1982



Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2586

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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'NEPSZABADSAG' INTERVIEWS PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST OFFICIAL

AU081652 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 Jul 82 p 2

[Andras Kereszty interview with Palestinian Communist Party Politburo member (Naim Asab)--in Hungary, date not given: "The United States is Behind Israel's Aggression; Statement by (Naim Asab), Member of the Politburo of the Palestinian Communist Party, for NEPSZABADSAG"]

[Text] At the invitation of the MSZMP Central Committee, a delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party led by Politburo member (Naim Asab) is visiting our country. (Naim Asab) discussed reasons for the party's reorganization, the Palestinian problem and Israel's current aggression with our editorial staffer Andras Kerezty.

[Question] Within the Palestinian movement, several organizations profess to be Marxist or, indeed, Marxist-Leninist. What made the recent reorganization of the Palestinian Communist Party necessary?

[Answer] The Palestinian Communist Party is an organization with a six-decade past. Its name has changed in the course of the years, but the party has been continuously in operation. It was established in 1919, and it has been operating under the same name since 1921. It was reorganized under the name of National Liberation Front in 1943 and within the framework of the Jordanian Communist Party in 1951. Ours is the political organization with the greatest traditions in the Palestinian area. Our struggle, which was laden with sacrifices, is characterized by continuity. In every phase of history, our party approached the Palestinian national issue in a revolutionary and realistic manner. That is characteristic of us still. As for the groups that maintain that they stand on a Marxist or Marxist-Leninist basis, I must say that we do not regard the ideal of Marxism-Leninism as our own monopoly within the Palestinian movement. Marxism and Marxism-Leninism constitute the decisive ideal of our age and we are glad if someone bases his activity on them.

[Question] How are your relations developing with the PLO?

[Answer] In the interests of resolving the Palestinian national issue, we deem important a national unity on the broadest scale. We are struggling for land where we can dig our toes in, for our national identity and for our national flag, briefly, for an independent Palestinian state. This requires that every group be prepared to struggle for independence, irrespective of ideological differences. We regard the PLO as a framework of such unity and ourselves as

a part of it. We are struggling for national objectives within this framework without abandoning our class character and the representation of the Palestinian working classes.

[Question] In their previous statement, Palestinian Communist Party representatives said that their fundamental base is in the Arab territories occupied in 1967. Knowing that there are Palestinians scattered over numerous countries of the Arab world. I ask you: Why are the occupied territories the most important scene of your activity?

[Answer] There are three reasons for that. One is: The largest masses of the Palestinian workers class live there. Another is: The occupied territories are becoming more and more the scenes of clashes between the Israeli authorities and the Arab population. And the third is a historic reason. The Palestinian communists have not left the land of Palestine since the British mandate because they realize that the essence of Zionist plans is to obtain land without people. That is, to evict the Arabs. We communists remained in place even during the greatest flight waves. The National Liberation Front--the party, that is--broke up in three parts and was organized in the three different ways in 1949. One group, joining up with the communists of Jewish origin, founded the Israeli Communist Party in the area in which the state of Israel was established. Another group was organized in the Gaza Strip, which became part of Egypt. And the third--our group--organized its movement, under the leadership of (Fuad Nasser), on the West Bank, which joined up with Jordan. In 1951, this group fused with the communist forces living on the East Bank of the Jordan River. That is how the Jordanian Communist Party came about. Thus, our communists have remained in place throughout, have not become members of another organization through expatriation, and our party's roots are in the same place where the party is still operating today.

[Question] On the basis of these historical traditions, you can cooperate with the Israeli Communist Party....

[Answer] This cooperation exists already, in the form of cooperation between two autonomous and independent parties. Both are struggling in their own areas against the Israeli occupation and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state. We highly respect the internationalist struggle waged by Israel's courageous communists against the chauvenistic wave.

[Question] We have come to the present Middle East situation, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. I feel that, to a certain extent, that attack was predictable. What do you think: What made it possible and what were the reasons for it?

[Answer] The matter of the Israeli aggression cannot be separated from the international political line aimed at increasing tension throughout the world. I have in mind the antidote policy that has been increasingly unfolding during Reagan's government. The present aggression could not have taken place without Washington's full support. Therefore, one can say that U.S. policy and, in the Arab area, the support of Arab reaction for imperialist objectives have created the prerequisites for the attack. At the same time, the Begin-Sharon govern-

ment policy which is intent on also annexing the remaining Palestinian areas has asserted itself in Israel. The pertinent Israel decisions and plans are known. Because of them, a 6-month wave of protests has engulfed the occupied areas. The restlessness in the occupied areas has proved that these people will not retreat until the creation of their own state under PLO leadership. The Israeli leadership planned to strike at the PLO, at armed resistance, with the aggression to also make its administration of the occupied areas easier.

[Question] Beirut is encircled, the position of the PLO there is very grave. The Begin government is claiming that it is close to its proclaimed goal of disarming Palestinian resistance.

[Answer] Begin will not achieve that. The notion of the Israeli leaders is that the PLO, the Palestinian movement, will automatically cease to exist if they can be easily refuted on the basis of the modern history of the Palestinian people. Since 1948, our people have been constantly persecuted and deprived of their land and fatherland. However, every time they were buried, they rose again and recommenced the struggle. One can say that the movement enjoyed an upsurge precisely after the greatest tragedy, following 1967. These people are struggling for a legitimate and just cause and will not abandon their struggle until they achieve their goal, no matter what Beirut's fate is. The goal set by Begin and Sharon is an unattainable one. Their attack is a challenge to the Palestinian patriots to resist, irrespective of where they live in the world.

[Question] Restlessness is also taking place in Israel itself. I am thinking of the restlessness of the Israeli, not the Arab population. Demonstrations are multiplying....

[Answer] That is an unprecedented phenomenon in the history of Israel. In wartime there have never been such vast antiwar demonstrations in the country. In Tel Aviv, 20,000 people demonstrated a week ago and as many as 100,000 did on the latest occasion. There is a leavening in progress in Israel. Rational public opinion must become aware of the fact that the path of force cannot be pursued. They must awaken to the realization the dangerous and self-destructive path that Begin and Sharon want to lead them onto. There is an old Arab proverb: "One can do anything with a sword but sit on it."

CSO: 4400/356

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN CONTACTS--Doha, 3 Jul (QNA)--Press reports published here today reported that the past 3 days witnessed many meetings--which were described as extremely important--between a PLO delegation and senior Egyptian officials with the aim of coordinating efforts to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and break the siege of Beirut. The Qatari paper AL-RAYAH said that a Palestinian delegation, which includes Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, said Kamal and three other officials, met with first Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din and then with deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The meeting lasted late into the night 2 days ago. The paper learned that President Husni Mubarak instructed Mr Kamal to inform the Palestinian delegation that Egypt's constant position is based on exerting all possible efforts to end the Israeli aggression, break the siege of Beirut and protect the PLO from the liquidation being perpetrated by Menahem Begin. The Egyptian minister explained in detail the results of Egypt's contacts with Washington, Paris and the EEC countries. He also explained the broad lines of the draft Egyptian-French joint initiative aimed at resolving the deteriorated solution in Lebanon in a way that preserves Lebanon's sovereignty, maintains the legitimate structure of the PLO and ensures Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Al-Rayah learned that the Palestinian delegation informed the PLO leadership of the results of its contacts in Cairo. The paper also learned that the PLO insisted that its delegation remain in Cairo to continue its contacts with Egyptian officials. [Text] [GF031144 Doha ZNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Jul 82]

KUWAIT TO EXTRACT URANIUM--Kuwait 1 July (KUNA)--Kuwait and Tunisia will engage in joint projects for the extraction of uranium and for a fertilizer industry in Turkey, a spokesman said today. Describing relations between Kuwait and Tunisia as ideal, the Tunisian Minister of Planning Mansour Moalla praised the role of Kuwait's oil minister in activating joint industrial projects. Such projects will assist in linking our interests and will lessen differences between Arab states, Moalla said in interview. [Excerpt] [GF031100 Kuwait Arab TIMES in English 2 Jul 82 p 5]

'IDEAL SOLUTION' FOR LEBANON PROPOSED--Riyadh, 7 Jul (SPA)--Khalid Al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has stressed that the kingdom is at present carrying out the basic effort in international moves for Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in confronting the Israeli invasion. In an interview with AL-JAZIRAH published today he said that the ideal solution for Lebanon is unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon followed by a Lebanese accord and Lebanon having a strong government capable of imposing its authority over

the whole of Lebanon, followed by Lebanese-Palestinian agreement involving full consideration for Lebanese sovereignty and for Palestinian military force similar to the military force which exists in the Arab world." Al-Husan expressed hope that the battle of Beirut would not take place. However, he stressed that the resistance will stand fast in Beirut if the Israeli enemy decides to storm the city. He said that in its aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians Israel is not only using American weapons but basically depends on a dangerous weapon, namely the Arab dispute, which has prevented the emergence of total, effective and influential Arab accord. Khalid al-Hasan stressed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon has cost the enemy 16 times the losses expected, according to French military sources. He expressed the belief that present circumstances are not favorable for the establishment of a Palestinian Government in exile. He said it is not the time for such a government to [sentence incomplete.] [Text] [LD070948 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0745 GMT 7 Jul 82]

FAHD PLAN--Bonn, 5 July (KUNA)--A prominent Palestinian leader said in a press interview published here today that the PLO had expected more support from several states, notably the Soviet Union, in its current war against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The political adviser to the PLO chairman, Hani al-Hasan, told the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL that "this battle has shown us who are our friends, and who do not deserve this name." He predicted that the battle for Lebanon will lead to wide-reaching changes in the Arab world. "Anyone who participated in the plot against us will pay a high price and every conspirator will be killed by his people, not by the Palestinians," al-Hasan added. On the question of the Saudi role in Lebanon, the Palestinian official said "I would like to emphasise that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia under King Khalid as well as King Fahd has complied with its duty towards us." Answering a question on whether the Fahd plan for a peaceful settlement to the mideast crisis was accepted by the PLO, al-Hasan said "when we force the Israelis to retreat from Lebanon and the Palestinians' fighting will have thwarted the Israeli intentions, then the Fahd-plan will become an important element for rendering a peaceful and complete solution in the Middle East." [Text] [GF061241 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 6 Jul 82 p 4]

MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON--London, 8 Jul (WAKH)--Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, has reiterated his rejection of the presence of U.S. forces to supervise the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from Beirut. In a statement to Wam, Qaddumi said "We may accept a multinational force under a UN flag, but the presence of only a U.S. force is rejected and unacceptable." He said the United States has encouraged Israel in its invasion of Lebanon. Referring to the Israeli enemy's demand for the departure of the Palestinian forces by 12 July, Qaddumi said: "This is unrealistic. The PLO military presence in Lebanon is to safeguard the security of the Palestinian people who live in Lebanon." Qaddumi called for the continued presence of PLO forces in Lebanon and said that it is the Israelis who are the invaders. He said that the Security Council resolution asked the Israeli invaders, and not any other party, to withdraw immediately. Qaddumi asked: "Where shall we go? We are refugees. If we are allowed to return to our homeland, Palestine, we shall be prepared to go." He asserted that if the Israelis try to expel the Palestinian forces and their allies from Beirut by force, they will meet with fierce and determined resistance. In conclusion Qaddumi said that he expects the

Israelis to sustain heavy losses. He said: "Israeli public opinion, which has shown dissatisfaction with this war, is being prepared to accept such losses."
[Text] [GF090605 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Jul 82]

JANIN COUNCIL DISBANDMENT--In an attempt to complete the plot to strike at our people and their national leaders and figures and to peddle the self-rule conspiracy through the civilian administration, the occupation authorities a few days ago disbanded the Janin Municipal Council and dismissed its chairman. They also issued a warning to brother Rashad al-Shawwa, the mayor of Gaza, that he would be dismissed if the Gaza Municipal Council continues to boycott the occupation authorities and to suspend its activities in protest against the self-administration conspiracy and the Zionist oppressive policy against the Palestinian people and their national establishments. The PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, considers these arbitrary measures another desperate attempt to force our people to accept the self-rule conspiracy and to cooperate with the so-called civilian administration. We are confident that our Palestinian people reject these criminal Zionist measures and resist them. These measures will only make them more determined to confront the plot and to confirm their sound national stand, their firm national unity and their adherence to the national political program. Difficulties will only make our people firmer, stronger and more determined to forge ahead on the road of victory to Palestine. It is a revolution until victory. [Statement issued by unidentified "PLO Official Spokesman" on 7 July--read by announcer] [Text] [NC072042 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1940 GMT 7 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/356

ARMED FORCES FACILITIES PRAISED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 29 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

"Defence of the soil and the homeland and liquidation of the enemies of revolution is the duty of every patriot", Feda Mohammad, a soldier of the ninth security zone of the Kabul provincial Police Command told the Kabul New Times recently.

He said, "We soldiers will not lay down our arms until we annihilate the enemies of the people's tranquillity and the revolution from our beloved country and we will defend devotedly the national honour and the gains of the revolution".

"I completed my military service in the Herat 17th division, serving for a period of three years and 18 days. And, after being demobbed from the division, I voluntarily reported again to the Kabul city ninth security zone to fulfill the sacred duties of a soldier. Now, I perform my duties with utmost sincerity and patriotism to implement the lofty objectives of the Saur Revolution especially, in its new and evolutionary phase and I will fight till the last drop of my blood to completely eradicate the coun-

ter-revolutionary elements, these sold-out servants and hirelings of reaction, and imperialism. I will thus ensure security of the Afghan people and will not allow our enemies to stain their dirty hands with the clean blood of thousands of our innocent compatriots".

"These flunkies of imperialism and reaction, under the instructions of their bosses, want to resort to various destructive and anti-Islamic deeds. But they are unaware that the vigilant armed forces of the DRA and the police, shoulder to shoulder with the brave, religious and noble people of Afghanistan, arms in their hands, day and night, are dealing crushing and shattering blows to these servants sold-out to rupees and dollars".

"We will not give, to these enemies of happiness and tranquillity of our people, a single chance to resort to burglaries, destruction, plunder, homicide, chances to set fire on schools and mosques and hundreds of other criminal actions".

Feda Mohammad said that he has participated in many military operations

to annihilate counter-revolutionaries in the Badghis, Ghor, Farah and Herat provinces. He also took part in actions in the Nahrin district of Baghlan province and received a gold medal, a wrist watch, cash prizes, a letter of merit and other awards for his heroism in these operations. He said, such tokens of appreciation by the Government encourages every soldier.

Responding to a question, he said, "The behaviour of army officers towards the soldiers are very friendly and fraternal. Our officers keep in touch with us like family members, and do their best to meet our needs."

The TV and radio programmes for soldiers and literacy courses in the army units were unprecedented in the army of earlier times. "We can also officially convey our messages to our families and relatives through the DRA radio with the help of our political heads. Our letters are broadcast in the "Soldiers' message" programme of the radio which console our families greatly", he said.

The TV programmes for soldiers are very interest-

ing. "We soldiers can convey our messages to our other brothers and can hear our favourite songs over the radio through these programmes".

"The literacy courses organised by our popular and revolutionary Government is of great interest to us. Every soldier, who was earlier deprived from the benefits of letters can today be literate and learn his alphabets during military service", Feda Mohammad added.

"It is my message to other patriotic brothers in the country", he said, "that every one of them should feel responsible for safeguarding the gains of the revolution, for implementing its lofty objectives and for blossoming of our dear and beloved country. They should join and mobilise themselves in the ranks of the armed and security forces, to cut off the bloody hands of imperialism and regional reaction from our homeland. And together with all democratic and progressive forces they should help build a blossoming homeland and provide the people happiness."

IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICIZED

Services of Central Clinics

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

After the victory of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, the central clinic, through its 26 health service centres, has provided great facilities to the sick people in the capital city, an official of central clinic told Kabul Times in an interview.

As many as 317,115 patients were examined and treated, and given free medicine by different sections of the clinic in the year 1360 H.S.

At present, the clinic has services like that of the surgery department, the internal ward, the gynaecology section, the urology, and children's ward, the ENT and skin diseases section, the eye departments, dispensaries, laboratory and and x-ray units, vaccination department, the malaria control department and various health services. These sections, are manned by active and experienced staff. The clinic also runs a family guidance centre where doctors provide useful advice to families coming here.

The official said, that the clinic treats all kinds of people and sincerely tries its best to provide adequate and timely services to them. The efforts of the clinic has produced satisfactory results in the treatment of patients last year. For instance, there was a considerable increase in the total number of patients treated here in comparison with preceding years.

The clinic, after initial treatment of patients for internal diseases at the urology, surgery, ENT, and other departments, introduces them to the central hospitals for longer periods of treatment. Last year, as many as 31,653 such patients, after diagnosis of their diseases by the clinic, were introduced to the hospitals in the capital where they underwent treatment.

The official said that medicine needed by the clinic, are provided by the Curative Medicines Department of the Public Health Ministry. This is then given to patients free of charge.

In response to a question

he said that the clinic had a very limited scope of activity and a limited means before the victory of the Saur Revolution. But, now, especially in its new evolutionary phase, the organization and the scope of its activities have been expanded so that it can cope with increasing number of patients coming to the clinic. On the basis of the revolutionary Government's plans, which envisage greater and efficient health services to all the people of the country, the central clinic was expanded and additional means and modern medical equipm-

ents were put at the disposal to enable it to treat additional number of patients.

These new facilities and added personnel have played an active role in the treatment of a greater number of patients at the clinic. At the same time, a development plan has also been drawn up to further expand the facilities and medical services to the people. These steps, has already given positive results. It is hoped that the clinic will still improve its services to Kabul people.

Work of Health Centers

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

The triumphant Saur Revolution, particularly its new phase, paved the way for the well-being and prosperity of the masses, opening new horizons of socio-economic development before our long-oppressed compatriots and hopes for a bright future. Therefore, despite the attempts made by the regional reaction, imperialism and hegemonism to create obstacles against the development efforts in the country, our people in unison with their national and democratic Government and the vanguard party of the working class and the entire working people of Afghanistan, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, indefatigably strive for reconstruction of the beloved homeland.

With every passing day, ground is being further prepared for reconstruction of the socio-economic life of our people. Among other miseries inherited from the past decrepit orders is the long-neglect of the public health sector. It is in the focus of attention of our popular revolutionary Government since the victory of the revolution, especially its new phase.

In a bid to ensure public health for all, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has undertaken a wide-range of public health programmes. Attempts are being made for eradication of diseases and development of the public health sector.

The data and statistics regarding preventive and curative medical care in

comparison with other development indices shows considerable progress during the last two years. Increases of 6.5 and 15.3 per cent have been recorded respectively in the number of basic as well as subsidiary health centres during Afghan year 1359. Eighteen health centres (out of the 50 health centres of the second project) practically started functioning in the last Afghan year, and the work is in progress on 33 others.

The number of state-run pharmacies has increased in the capital as well as provinces to a total 653 last year.

During the new phase of the revolution, in a relatively short time, the number of the new public health institutions, beds in the hospitals, and the newly-enrolled students in the health institutions has increased.

Unlike in the past, when public health was only in service of the ruling oppressors and Afghanistan was among the most backward countries in health services, (two beds and less than one physicians for every 10,000), now the doors of the hospitals and health centres are open to all and a number of our compatriots enjoy free health servi-

ces.

The prices of medicines have been considerably reduced in favour of the low-income and the needy compatriots. The private pharmacies are checked by the Public Health Ministry inspectors so that they do not charge extra money.

On the basis of the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which serves as a provisional constitution, the Government seeks to expand the networks of health and social institutions, so that everyone, regardless of national, religious, ideological and language and other discriminations, can enjoy the blessings of health in the country.

The First Congress of Medical Employees, with the participation of 563 medical personnel from all over the country discussed in detail the public health problems in the country. The congress adopted necessary measures for improvement of the health services, pledging their all-out efforts for all-round development of the public health sector in the country.

The revolutionary Government has undoubtedly initiated major and long-needed reforms in this vital field of peoples' welfare.

Nationwide Performance

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 29 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

Though it is not an easy job to summarise one year's work of a ministry, especially that related to health activities all over the country, major aspects of the work can still be cited.

It will not be irrelevant to mention that the major aim of activities of the ministry is to improve and expand the efficacy of health services in the field of preventive as well as curative medicine and create a wide infrastructure of health services networks for the general public, especially the rural people who were deprived of such services before the glorious Saur Revolution.

During 1360 H.S. (1981-82), the ministry, within the limits of its financial means and available manpower, has achieved certain successes in the interest of the people's health.

Preventive medicine:

In this field, central stations of epidemiology and sanitation departments for the control of contagious diseases, microbiology, chemical research, analysis, sanitation, and mass immunization, the central department of health education and publications, and two small epidemiology and sanitary stations in the Balkh and Nangarhar provinces have been established and activated.

Three medically equipped teams have been sent periodically to the Farah, Kandahar and other provinces and 29 kinds of stan-

dard medicines for the treatment of acute diarrhoea have been despatched to the provinces distributed.

Over 22,000 people have been checked up for trachoma and syphilis and adequate medicine had been provided for the positive cases in Kabul.

Over 24,000 people have been laboratory checked for blood, urine, phlegm and so on.

About 578,000 people were vaccinated against different diseases.

As many as 357 samples of food materials were laboratory-checked and the results sent to the related centres.

NETWORKS

A number of water distribution networks including their water reservoirs and tanks, and ice-producing factories were inspected and checked; 952 samples were taken and, out of it, 256 samples have been reported unhealthy.

Over 1,000 health programmes have been prepared for the television.

As many as 510 persons have been trained in various short-term courses in different fields.

Curative medicine:

No less than 195 new beds have been added to the present number of hospitals, bringing the total number of beds in the ministry-run hospitals to 4,308.

The technical workshop of orthopaedy was built and began operation.

The centre for the physically handicapped was

opened with a capacity of 100 beds and began functioning.

The number of patients reporting to the polyclinics reached 687,266.

As many as 6,489 patients were hospitalised.

Major operations were made on 6,736 patients, and minor ones on 6,489.

Laboratory analysis was done for 325,608 cases.

X-ray check-ups were made for 84,129 persons.

Physiotherapy treatment was given to 1,037 persons.

As many as 71,624 persons were vaccinated.

A total of 9,230 cases of dressings on wounds were reported.

Conserved blood was distributed in 2,129 cases.

Free medicine worth Afs 35 million was distributed.

Thirteen different kinds of scientific and medical publications were published.

A total of 70,850 persons received dental checkups and treatment.

Development plans and statistics:

1. About Afs 143 million and over three million dollars have been spent on 10 development projects from the development Budget of the ministry.

Among these projects, the construction work on two polyclinics in Kabul has been completed, while the construction work for the Jalalabad hospital and the Faculty of Medicine of Kabul are nearing completion. In other projects, work has progressed considerably.

(To be continued)

CSO: 4600/644

RECORD, ACTIVITIES OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SURVEYED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24, 26, 27, 28 Jun 82 p 2

[24 Jun 82 p 2]

[Text]

An assessment of activities in 1360 H. S. (1981-82) and an anticipation and prospect of the country's trade in 1361:

Among the major economic sectors of the country, foreign and home trade has always had an important role to play in the economic and social transformations of the country. Therefore, due to the serious attention of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, efforts are made to see that the commercial and trade activities, the exports and imports, the internal circulation of trade goods are expanded and developed as a complementary contribution with other economic activities inside the country and help the growth of agricultural and industrial production in the state sector, cooperatives as well as in the private sector, which will as a sum total lead to the consolidation of the national economy.

With this consideration, the foreign trade of the country in 1361 (1982-83) is anticipated in the light of the analysis and evaluation of trade figures of the year 1360 (1981-82) having in view the permanent ties and links of foreign trade with the agricultural, industrial and mining production.

The foreign trade returns of the country in the year 1361 are estimated at 1363.9 million dollars which will be four to five percent or 52.10 million dollars more than the 1311.8 million dollar foreign trade return of the year 1360. The percentage of the above-mentioned increase will be mainly due to the increase of the export price of natural gas at about 15 per cent more than in the previous year.

The total value of exports in the year 1361 is anticipated at 690.36 million dollars which will be three per cent more than the achieved figure of 671.10 million dollars of the year

1360. The total export returns due to the export of gas in 1361 are anticipated at 300 million dollars while the achieved figure for the year 1360 due to this commodity was 268.27 dollars.

The returns for other commodities, the major export items, for 1360 such as ginned cotton, wool, skins, chemical fertiliser, fresh and dried fruits, carpets, rugs and medicinal herbs amounted to 354.7 million dollars while the anticipated figure for these commodities in 1361 will be 345.7 million dollars.

EXPORT

Of the total export volume in 1360 a sum of 415.67 million dollars, or 62 per cent constituted the share of the barter area with 401.10 million dollars coming from the Soviet Union. The share of countries outside the barter area was 955.29 million dollars. Of the total value of exports in 1361, 436.6 million dollars or 63 per cent will be the share of the barter area countries out of which 410.74 million dollars or 59 per cent will be the share of the Soviet Union. The non-barter area's share will be 253.7 million dollars or 37 per cent.

This shows an increase of 3.01 million dollars in the share of the Soviet Union,

compared to the previous year.

The volume of imports for 1361 is anticipated at 673.5 million dollars which will be 32.8 million dollars or five per cent more than the 640.7 million dollar figure achieved in 1360.

Although the difference in the import figure is not very significant qualitatively, it must be noted that the above five per cent increase is due to the increase in the prices of certain imported items in the world market. In the composition of the value of imports of 1361, the imports of petroleum derivatives, sugar, wheat, tea, vegetable oil, soap, machine tools, vehicles tyres and tubes metals and metal products cover 528.8 million dollars or 73 per cent. This is 86.2 million dollars more than the 442.62 million dollars achieved in 1360.

Out of the total import value in 1361 a sum of 454.6 million dollars or 67 per cent will be the share of the barter area countries out of which 436.8 million dollars will be the share of the Soviet Union. This will show an increase of 71.30 million dollars in the share of the Soviet Union in the imports over the year 1360. Similarly the non-barter area's share is anticipated to be 218.9 million dollars.

The state sector's share

on the basis of the assessments made of the 1360 performance was 356.9 million dollars, while the anticipation for state sector in the year 1361 is 355.02 million dollars. The share of the combined sector in 1360 was 37.05 million dollars, while the share of combined sector for 1361 will be 44.23 million dollars according to the anticipation.

The share of private sector in 1360 was 247.06 million dollars and the anticipation of the private sector's share will be 274.27 million dollars.

The following table shows the foreign trade balance of Afghanistan in 1361 as compared with that of 1360:

Assessment of the 1360 performance, anticipation for 1361, percentage of 1361 in comparison with 1360:

Foreign Trade returns:			
1311.8	m.—1363.9	m	4
per cent.			
Exports.			
671.1	m	640.7	m
3	per cent.		
Imports.			
640.7	m	673.5	m 5 per
cent.			

According to the above trade balance, the trade returns for 1361 will be positive, showing an increase of 16.9 million dollars in exports over the imports.

(To be continued)

[Text]

After the victory of the glorious Saur Revolution and its new, evolutionary phase, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, realising the fact that exports should be marketed in world markets at suitable prices on the one hand and the imports of the needed commodities should be obtained in desirable qualities at fair prices on the basis of the agreements concluded with the friendly countries on the other, has made efforts to expand its trade and commerce with all the world countries and has not imposed bans on trade with any country.

But, the figures indicate that, after the glorious Saur Revolution and its new, evolutionary phase, our trade has luckily traversed its ascending curve with the Socialist countries and above all the Soviet Union and is being expanded every year. The share of these countries in the trade volume of our country has increased every year. On the contrary, after the victory of the Saur Revolution, the volume of trade of Afghanistan with the western countries has decreased every year despite the desire of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to further expand it.

The cause of this decrease in the trade with western countries can be sought on the one hand in the further cooperation and favourable conditions which the Socialist countries have created with regard to Afghanistan and on the other hand in the transport and tra-

nsite difficulties, rising of the freight rate and transit transport and especially in the lack of desire and co-operation of the Western and Capitalist countries and their related organisations in regard to trade with Afghanistan. These countries in fact create difficulties in the way of trade expansion with Afghanistan.

With a view to supporting the producers of goods in the country, purchasing their surplus products and expanding the country's ex-

ports, the ministry makes all efforts and, through negotiations and participation in the trade fairs and exhibitions and sending trade delegates to foreign countries to find markets for the Afghan products, tries to preserve the traditional international markets for the Afghan commodities and expand them. It also seeks to find new markets for the Afghanistan's export items.

In addition to placing all necessary information and the results of market searching efforts at the disposal of the private sector which handles 40 to 45 per cent of our foreign trade, the ministry has also provided all the necessary facilities for them in order that they take an active part in the exports of the country.

Similarly, the export sections of the ministry have purchased the export items from their producers as much as possible and have taken adequate steps to export them.

CONTRIBUTION

Sherkati Samoon (The Fruit Company) makes an active contribution to the purchase of nuts and raisins from the producers as well as to the export of these items to the foreign markets. Also, the Medicinal Herbs Company and the Wool Export Company play their respective roles in the purchase and export of medicinal herbs and wool.

The roles and contribution of the Handicrafts Company, the Afghan CART and the Karakul Institute are worth mention in the purchase and export of handicrafts, raisins and karakul pelts respectively.

The existence of these establishments, in addition to the gain of required foreign currencies through exports, also have a valuable role in the payment of favourable prices to the producers through these establishments themselves and private sector which follow their prices.

In the same manner, with a view to procuring the consumer goods needed by the people, the ministry, through its related departments has taken full measures to secure imports from world markets and put them at the disposal of consumers at fair prices and also provide the import organisations and private sector with adequate information.

In addition to these undertakings, the related organisations and departments

such as the general department of petroleum products and sugar, the general department of food procurement and public requirements, the state officials' co-operative, the Afghan CART Company, the Organisation of Trade Cooperation and Friendship and the consumers' cooperatives not only import the primary goods needed by the people but also distribute them at lower prices to the coupon-holders and members of the Consumers' Cooperatives as well as to the general consumers.

In the field of home trade, retail trade in the state sector of the volume of Afs 13.83 billion has been anticipated for 1361 which shows 24 per cent increase over the figure of Afs 11.19 billion for 1360. The main reason for this increase in the home trade is the improvement in the retail trade conditions in the state sector inside the country and greater distribution of goods in order to relatively stabilise the prices and prevent speculations.

Of this amount the total home trade return of Afs 11 billion or 79.5 per cent will be due to the activities of the ministry and its related enterprises, Afs 1.26 billion due to the activities of agricultural establishments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms, Afs 900 million from the activities of establishments related to the Mines and Industries Ministry and the rest will be due to the activities of other ministries.

(To be continued)

[27 Jun 82 p 2]

[Text]

In 1360, from the amount of Afs 11.19 billion, home trade returns, Afs 8.65 billion constituted the share of the Commerce Ministry and its related organisations, Afs 1.07 billion the share of activities of the agricultural establishments of the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry Afs 850 million, were due to the activities of the establishments related to the Mines and Industries Ministry and the rest was due to the activities of other ministries.

On the basis of these figures, the Commerce Ministry, in accord with the guidelines of the Fundamental Principles and the instructions of the party and authoritative state bodies, despite the difficulties and the present hard conditions, has tried and will try to keep the trade of the country active and offer at fair and reasonable prices

an amount of goods of primary need to the people through its related organisations as well as through the private sector in order to maintain price stability.

In 1361, in continuation of the preceding years, the ministry has taken into consideration the import of adequate quantity of consumer goods such as petroleum products, sugar, wheat, vegetable oil, soap, powder milk, tea, matches, cloths, footwear, and clothes which will on the one hand meet the peoples' needs and, on the other, keep the country's trade going.

It can be said that the import of consumer goods through the related to organisations of the ministry, in competition with the private organisations and individual traders, will have a positive effect on price stability.

In order that the goods

imported by the related organisations of the ministry are effectively offered to the people and that the price stability is maintained, the ministry has planned to open 240 retail stores in 1361. Out of these, 32 are planned to be opened by the general department of food procurement and public needs, 105 stores by the department of distribution of rationed materials, 50 state stores in addition to the stores on commission bases to offer sugar to consumers, 20 stores for sales of good provided by the department of trade cooperation and friendship, 30 stores for the sales of consumer goods related to the consumers cooperatives and three magazines for the sales of commodities provided by Afghan CART Company.

These stores are to be opened in various parts of the city and around it.

(To be continued)

[28 Jun 82 p 2]

[Text]

After the uprising of Jaddi 6, that is, the new evolutionary phase of the Saur Revolution the ministry with a view to further expanding the trade and to provide more facilities and opportunities for the national and patriotic traders, under the wise leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the state, has undertaken and implemented the following activities:

1—Efforts to win the confidence of national and patriotic traders through the provision of adequate facilities in their trade businesses and to prevent bureaucracy, to facilitate and simplify the complicated procedures in order to encourage their greater participation in trade became, before the new, evolutionary phase of the Saur Revolution, the development of trade was blucked.

2. In order that our trade is rechannelled into its proper course and the national and patriotic traders who had quit business restart their trade with more confidence, the ministry attempts to remove or decrease the exports licences, to free from monopoly those items which have a considerable role in the expansion of trade and will provide more encouragements for the national traders.

Exemption from demurrage in the ports, reduction in the rate of royalty rights in connection with the monopoly of wool in the case of private exporters, increase in the price of licquorice in order to protect and support the producers are among the steps to improve trade taken by the ministry.

Giving a share to the national traders in the task of wool export and licquorice is another important step in this direction.

3. Expansion and development of trade with the friendly countries through negotiations and conclusion of trade agreements and protocols, and greater attention to the task of implementation of these protocols with the participation of the national traders.

4. Conclusion of the border trade agreement between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the partial implementation of this trade with the activity of local

and provincial traders.

5. Preparation of the ground for participation of national traders in the international trade fairs to exhibit various export items of the country, despatch of national traders' delegations to seek markets for Afghan export commodities as well as negotiation of trade contracts.

6. Provision of facilities by way of trade licenses to individual traders, establishment of enterprises and companies and provision of more favourable conditions for investment in the private sector.

7. Reconsideration of the commissions on the services of imported goods of the importing companies related to the general department of Commerce and Industry. Earlier, as a general rule, a two per cent commission was taken for the imported goods under the name of services, but, after the new phase of the revolution, this commission was reconsidered in view of the nature of the imported goods, namely the raw materials, the most needed consumer goods, machine tools, and so on. This is more encouraging for the import of raw materials machine tools and the most needed consumer goods.

8. The compulsory donation, which was customary before the new phase and was discouraging and a source

of fear for the national traders, has been abolished.

9. In the task of taxation on imported goods from the barter area countries, the practices prevailing before the new phase of the revolution have been reconsidered and corrected. The national traders importing from the barter countries can, for example, take out their goods from the customs houses without paying a cash guarantee.

10. A trade guide of Afghanistan has been prepared and placed at the disposal of the internal and external traders and other interested people.

Similarly, a catalogue of carpets, which is a fine introduction to the carpet trade of the country, was prepared and distributed. The distribution of this catalogue has provided better opportunities for the expansion of carpet exports to the world markets.

It must be added at the conclusion that the programme of action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, adopted at the countrywide conference of the PDPA and acknowledged as a programme of the related organs, has still further paved the way for the intensification of trade and economic activities and further encourages the national traders and capital holders.

(Concluded)

TEXTILE MILLS TO INCREASE OUTPUT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 82 p 3

[Text] With the expansion of the Balkh textile mills, a considerable increase has been recorded in its output. This is profitable not only from the economic view point, but also that of employment attracting and supply of textiles to meet the domestic needs", Eng Mohammad Ghulam Rahimi, Deputy Minister for Industries Ministry, told the Kabul New Times.

The mills were established by individual merchants in 1348 H.S. with Afs 463 million as the initial capital (for construction, machinery, annexes and other necessities). The factory later started its activities as a state enterprise in 1351 H.S. with a capital of Afs 140 million. The present flowing capital of the factory (excluding the newly-extended parts of the factory) amounts to Afs 603 million.

The production capacity of the factory is about 10 million metres of a variety of textiles annually. But, after the new developments in the factory, its production capacity will reach 20 million metres annually. The daily production capacity of the factory is about 67 thousand metres.

The production of the mills conforms to the local standards in quality. The expansion is intended also to improve the quality. The new part includes spinning and weaving plants. The machinery section of the factory comprises spinning, weaving and dyeing sections with 27,000 spindles, 502 knitting and dyeing machines and so on.

The factory is equipped with a repair workshop, vapour pressure, water supply and air conditioning and other facilities.

The factory employees number 1,200 of whom 700 are workers and the rest constitute the technical and administrative staff. Over 1,000 are to be employed in the new section of the factory.

The raw material (cotton) is supplied from domestic products. It is purchased through the Balkh Gin and Press Enterprise under separate contacts--about 1,200 tons ginned cotton annually. The factory has stores of 350 tons of ginned cotton in its godowns.

The products of the Balkh textile mills are freely supplied to the local markets through its branch offices.

"The output of the factory in 1360 H.S. was according to its proposed plan. But, with opening of the new section in the factory, a considerable increase is expected", Rahimi said.

CSO: 4600/612

PLAN STRESSES FOREIGN TRADE, FARM GROWTH

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 16 Jun 82 p 3

[Article by Sayed Murtaza]

[Text]

Development and its expansion are directly related to some factors. These factors are: agriculture, industry, mining, communications, conditions in the domestic and foreign markets and the people's standard of living. Any of these factors is a separate field in socio-economic development of the country, directly related to the over-all growth of other economic sectors.

In other words, one of the main objectives of the plan programmes is to raise the total and the per capita income of the people of Afghanistan, through the use of better methods and improved performance in every field of living. Improved educational system, nutrition and sanitation are the most important of such fields.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan launched Five-Year Plans, also in an attempt to overcome problems related to recession of the domestic economy and the rate of inflation.

In development plans, priorities are assigned to all relevant sectors. The foreign trade has drawn the maximum of the Government's attention.

The developing world in general is struggling to correct imbalances in international trade and the global inequalities which affects their economy. The UNCTAD, has recommended in its various sessions the participation of these countries to international markets. The countries of the developing world should not only increase their participation in international trade and equally benefit from its advantages, but also accelerate trade and economic cooperation among themselves.

The most important goal of the Five-Year Plan of Afghanistan in the field of foreign trade and agriculture can be summarised as follows:

In foreign trade, by using better packing methods, almost all of Afghanistan's exports could be

sold for convertible currencies and at good prices. The facilities for such modern handling and processing of raw materials are made available to Afghanistan under the plan. This way, the market will not remain confined to such traditional export goods as karakul skins and better-quality carpets.

In agriculture, the goal is to increase the annual production of wheat in the country within the plan period. This is to be attained by raising the average yield per 'jirib' of better irrigated land as well as the average yield per 'jirib' of the poorer irrigated land.

The agricultural sector can be so worked as to reduce Afghanistan's present dependence on wheat imports significantly and to lessen the danger of an internal food crisis. The high yield obtained profitably by farmers as a result of the plan programmes would raise their net income, thus increasing their ability to pay for their proper

share of the cost of supplied equipments already obtained through the cooperatives concerned.

Their enhanced income would also provide purchasing power with which they could buy manufactured goods, thus expanding the market for products of Afghanistan's growing industries needed to give employment for the rising population and raise the living standards.

The strengthened farmers' organisations built up under development programmes would then be available also to participate in other essential programmes aimed at improving agriculture and rural life.

The beneficial results, which farmers would see from using the better seeds, new fertilisers and improved cultural practices in growing wheat, would persuade them to adopt similar innovations recommended for cotton and other crops.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TRAINING SKILLED WORKERS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

Some time ago, the first technical vocational school was established within the framework of the Higher and Vocational Education Ministry. This school trains skilled workers for industrial organisations. It is planned, that in the near future, to open another eight similar schools. These, will train as many as 2,500 students in different fields of technical professions.

This was stated by Mohammad Osman, president of the vocational studies department of the ministry in an interview with the Kabul New Times.

Osman stressed that the condition of enrolment in this school is such that student of grade six of 15 years of age can be enrolled. The curriculum of the school has been prepared in such a way so that 60 per cent of the student's time is spent in technical, laboratory and practical work. Good health and physical strength on the part of the students help in enrolment of the students in this school.

In an effort to absorb students in this school, the department has launched a publicity drive, explaining the conditions of enrolment and the types of subjects taught. "Within a short time, we were able to attract a large number of students on voluntary basis", Osman said.

He pointed out that establishment of such schools is of utmost importance, because at present, the industrial enterprises in the country face a lack of trained technical workers.

He said that, since a large number of students had applied for enrolment in the school, the management was compelled to organise entrance examinations. Those who could pass the examinations were enrolled. Actually, the 1361 enrollment plan at the school was fixed at 75 students. But, as a result of the insistence of students, the management was forced to revise its plan and a total of 105 new students were enrolled.

The training period of the students is of two years. Besides general subjects,

the students take special professional subjects in the fields of their choice. At present, three specialised fields are taught— vehicle repair, repair of industrial machines and its technology, machine construction, (metallurgical cuts, girding). The possibility of the inclusion of other fields during 1362 is under the thorough study of local and foreign experts.

Meanwhile, the possibility of continuation of the study of the students of this school at the higher technical institutions— technical night colleges— has also been under the scrutiny of the experts. After graduation from the technical vocation school, they will possibly enter one of the night colleges and at the same time could make use of specialised training courses outside the country.

This technical vocation school, the first of its kind in the country, has in fact introduced a new type of modern technical education in this country. The graduates of this school will obtain special certificates and they can be employed as skilled technical workers at industrial enterprises—productive enterprises, transport, construction, and technical services organisations in the country.

As for the future development plan of the school and opening of new such school, Osman said, "Since the revolutionary Government of the DRA pays much attention and gives priority to the strengthening of the industrial base and the supply of sufficient technical workers in the country, it is necessary that a number of technical vocation schools are established in the country. For realisation of this lofty objective of the DRA state, during the year 1359, the Higher and vocational Education Ministry has signed a contract to this effect with the State Committee for Professional Studies of the Soviet Union in Kabul".

In accordance with this contract, establishment of a number of technical vocation schools has been anticipated. To begin with, the first school, was established and soon eight others will follow suit. "When these are accomplished we will be in a position to train sufficient technical skilled workers urgently needed by the industrial enterprises in the country".

Some of these schools, to be opened in Kabul, Jalalabad Mazari Sharif, and other cities, will have specialised training curriculum such as radio repair,

freezer repair, electrical appliances repair, agricultural machines, road-building, machineries repair, irrigation (dams and canals) fields, and construction. Meanwhile, during the year 1362, technical school no. 2 for training of students in the field of radio repair, freezer repair, and television repair will also be opened in Kabul.

Likewise, within the framework of agriculture schools of Balkh and Nangarhar, technical schools nos 3 and no 4 will be opened. Construction work on these continues. Technical school no 5, intended to train skilled technical workers in the field of construction, will be opened within the framework of the Housing Construction Factory in Kabul in the near future.

Osman noted that the curriculum of these schools has already been prepared by the local and foreign experts. It will soon be approved by the advisory commission of the ministry. Delivery of the equipments and laboratory materials to the Afghan side has already been started by the Soviet authorities. Some of these equipments and materials have reached Kabul and the rest will soon be obtained.

SUGAR, OIL IMPORTS UP

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

The oil and sugar department will import 101,000 tons of sugar and 336,500 tons of oil this year, a department official told the Kabul New Times recently.

The department renders all-out efforts to implement its economic and commercial activities according to plans. Based on its import plan, the department has imported 95,000 tons of sugar from abroad and supplied to consumers in the country.

With the import, transportation and distribution of petroleum and sugar, not only are the needs of consumers, i.e. the need of the transportation units, state institutions and individuals all over the country have been met but also a sufficient quantity of diesel was distributed to the people as winter fuel last year.

This year also, a sufficient quantity of diesel and kerosene will be supplied to the people to meet their demand for fuel.

Qualitative and quantitative, positive changes are expected in the import of

oil and sugar, compared with the previous year. Import of diesel, other oils, tar and sugar shows a considerable growth.

The envisaged growth rate this year for diesel import is 116.67 per cent, oils 2.2 per cent, tar 160 per cent and sugar 109.78 per cent. The import of sugar was 23,580 tons more in 1360 H.S. than the year before.

Answering a question, the department official said that at the prices of major commercial items supplied by the department have been standardized all over the country. Despite a worldwide price hike which naturally directly affects the cost price, the DRA Government has maintained the earlier prices. A large number of consumer items are subsidised.

Sugar sales will be increased this year. This year 108.9 per cent increase in sales of petrol, 125 per cent in diesel, over 200 per cent in other oils has also been envisaged. This increase (particularly in the amount

of diesel) compared the previous year is to meet the growing expenditures in the state institutions such as state transport, the thermal power station, the public baths, the confectionaries and bakeries which use diesel as fuel.

To ensure a better supply of sugar to the people and avoid hoarding, the department will have new state-run shops that will be open during and after official work hours. So far, 27 state-run shops have been opened in different parts of the city. Encouraged by the positive results achieved, the department proposes to increase the number of the stores in the capital as well as in the provinces. At present 900 non-state-run stores are serving the people in the capital.

and provinces, providing sugar to the people. They receive sugar from the oil and sugar supply department every day, the official said.

In addition to other all-out assistance to the people of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, this year it will provide 16,600 tons of sugar, 6,100 tons of diesels and 4,400 tons of petroleum as grant-in-aid to the DRA Government.

To remove transport problems, in addition to the activities of the private sector, the department organised last year a transports section in the framework of the department late in 1359. Therefore, some problems in this sector were also solved.

CSO: 4600/643

ERADICATION OF FEUDALISM PROCLAIMED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 28 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

The victory of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, ensured the sovereignty of the toilers in this country and paved the way for reconstruction of the new Afghan society under the leadership of the vanguard party of the working class and the entire working people, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

As part of the revolutionary transformations initiated in the country, new regulations have been introduced regarding the use of land and water, which are the main source of sustenance for our toiling peasants and workers.

Listing the grave duties before the revolutionary Government at this stage, the Programme of Action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan says:

"Eradication of all remnants of the feudal and pre-feudal relations, completion of the democratic land reforms through abolition of big feudal landholdings and distribution of land to the landless and petty landholders and workers engaged in agriculture, promotion of the national economy, promotion of the material and cultural standards of the people, growth of the national culture of the people of Afghanistan and democratisation of the socio-political life are among the major objectives of our national and democratic revolution, particularly, its new and evolutionary phase".

Even a hasty glance at the accomplishments, made during a relatively short time, shows clearly that, despite a number of problems, firm steps have been taken in achieving the objectives of the revolution.

During the last two years, we had a balanced Budget without any deficit, which is unprecedented. In some industrial institutions, production even exceeded the plan targets.

In the field of agriculture, with the successful continuation of the democratic land reforms, our rural areas and villages are

undergoing fundamental transformation, promising positive results in favour of the working man of this country.

A number of factories and production institutions were opened during the last two or three months. Tangible headway in extension of the power network and expansion of construction activities has been made.

To expedite continuation of the democratic land reforms programme on the basis of the first, second, third and fourth operational plans, pertinent measures have been adopted. The joint commission of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Council of Minis-

ters are meeting and issuing specific instructions in this connection.

Likewise, concrete measures have been adopted for expansion of cultural activities in the country and for the balanced growth of the fruitful and creative culture of the fraternal nationalities of the country after the revolution, especially its new and evolutionary stage.

Thus, during the new stage of the triumphant Saur Revolution, revolutionary Afghanistan forges ahead with rapid steps, scoring more and more victories in the socio-economic and cultural spheres, with firm determination to ensure a blossoming future.

CSO: 4600/643

CLUB TO RAISE CULTURAL LEVEL OF WOMEN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 28 Jun 82 p 4

[Text]

"One of the gains of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, is ensuring equal rights to the country's women and providing them active part in the socio-political life of the country", Jamila Nahid, general director of the WDOA Women's Central Club told Kabul New Times in an interview.

"In order to pursue the fundamental lines and duties of the Women's Democratic Organisation of Afghanistan for awakening and mobilizing the country's women around it, the WDOA, beside all other broad mass activities, established the Central Women's Club. This is a valuable fruit of the activities of this organisation and its establishment is in accord with the decisions of the countrywide WDOA conference (held in Qaus, 1359 H.S.)", she said.

The main aim of the club is to rear creative talents of women, to familiarize them with different

spheres of social activities and to raise their professional knowledge level, thus to attract the young women of the country to take active part in production and social activities.

The WDOA also deems it its duty to annihilate illiteracy, this heinous heritage of the past regimes for the overwhelming majority of country's women, who are deprived from it. To organise women to raise their political and social awareness, to absorb conscious and meritorious women in the heroic ranks of the vanguard of country's women—the WDOA—and to train them so that they can help defend consciously the gains of the revolution and take real part in building a new and just society in Afghanistan.

The club will have an important role in raising the cultural level of the women, providing physical training and recreation and healthy education for their children.

Speaking on the activities of the club, she said that it has the following sections:

1. Productive affairs section:

This section was formed for the growth of talent in women such as in needle work, knitting, embroidery, tailoring and cutting. Professional courses on the above subjects are also taught by qualified trainers. Many women and girls are today busy with their studies in these courses.

The outstanding embroidery works by the women of the club are noteworthy for their quality. Some of the work is unique in the region and the world as well from the quality point of view.

"In order to preserve and perfect this art and to introduce it as one of our ancient cultures, we made efforts and established a handicraft museum in the framework of the club. This museum will be in future an important place to depict the excellence of our women."

"All kinds of embroidery works from all tribes and nationalities living in our beloved homeland, are displayed in the museum which will surely have more important role in the development of cultural, national and ancient industries of the country" Jamila Nahid said.

2. Cultural affairs section:

The club also has a cultural affairs section and this section has different art courses such as painting, sculpture, photography, typing, language, music. It also has sports clubs.

These courses make the students art-lovers. And in order to expand the cultural activities of the club, she pointed out, "we have in view the establishment of new secretariae, painting and language courses."

She stressed: "In order to meet the needs of the toiling women of the country, this section plays a meritorious role in screening films, performing concerts and shows, holding meetings on different national and international occasion."

3. Political and mass education section:

The activities of this section covers the most important tasks of the club. It is responsible for the political training of women in accord with the lofty objectives of the Saur Revolution especially, its new and evolutionary phase.

Its major tasks are propaganda, extension and education, to induce patriotic spirits in women, teach them to respect customs and traditions of the people, to be loyal to the cause of the revolution and to pay respect

to the unshakeable friendship of tribes and nationalities residing in the country.

This section also renders assistance to women to broaden their ranks around the WDOA so that they can defend the gains of the Saur Revolution and defend their own rights.

This section also organises lectures, seminars, meetings, round-table talks for the party, the state and the various social organisations' incharges. Various occasions are celebrated.

Festivals are marked and other effective methods of political and mass work are conducted.

Members and participants of the club are divided into two groups. One comprises women who are there to learn different professions and they leave the club after completing of their education and obtaining certificates, and work in different organisations.

The second comprises those who are colleagues and permanent members of the club. They are mainly busy in productive sections of the club.

"In order to raise their professional level and awareness, we have tried to send them abroad to further their education and skill. It is also worth mention that we pr-

provide grounds for the recreation and treatment of the club members inside and outside the country", Jamila Nahid said:

She added. We have planned to establish a child and mother care section in the framework of the club which will have important tasks in solving the family problems of the women who are the members of this club. At present, the club has a medical clinic to take care of children and mothers. One nurse is working in it, and some physicians also come to this clinic to examine and treat the mothers and children."

The club has a sustenance and nutrition centre to take care of the children of workers and employees and students, who come to the club for education, from morning to noon free charge.

"The real emancipation of women from the chains of inequality and injustice is related to their real and active part in the process of revolution and the social activities. By attracting mi-

llions of country's women towards new life, we can step forward to take necessary measures to solve the problem of women and ensure equal right to them with men. The club will be able to organize vast propagation, extension work among the toiling women of the country and could pave the ground for the possibility of participation of tens of thousands of women in its ranks", Jamila Nahid affirmed.

"It is not very long from the establishment of the club", she noted, "but it has in hand broad plans. We want to establish similar clubs in all 11 districts of the Kabul city and all provinces. So far, we could succeed in forming similar clubs in the framework of the first and third district councils of the WDOA of Kabul city, and in the Balkh, Jauzjan, Herat, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Laghman, Parwan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan provinces. These clubs are functioning well at present."

MINISTER OPENS NEW OIL PIPELINES

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 22 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

REFINERIES in the Delta and Cairo will do without road transport of crude oil thanks to a new pipeline which has been opened linking Shukeir on the Red Sea to Cairo, Tanta and Alexandria.

The Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister of Petroleum, Mr Ahmed Ezz Edin Hilal, has opened the Shukeir-Mostorod 350-km pipeline, which will cost LE 70 million to complete.

In its first stage, the project will work at a capacity of eight million tons annually which saves the cost of transporting by tankers amounting to \$ 23 million per year, an official source in the Petroleum Ministry said.

The Minister of Petroleum moreover opened a number of petroleum project including the well Shukeir 11, a well producing high quality crude which covered its costs from the income of three months' production.

Another project opened by the Minister was that of extracting gases accompanying crude oil. This project would cover its costs within three years' time, the Petroleum Ministry official

said.

A third project is the pipeline with a diameter of 18 inches to transport crude oil from the platforms and production decks of the offshore Sho'ab Ali wells to the production facilities in Ras el-Ish area. This will enable the Sho'ab Ali wells to do without the ship which the Israelis used to store the crude oil in when they were capturing the area and exploiting its oil.

The Ministry of Petroleum sources announced that the new pipeline would result in saving \$ 3 million annually. The production facilities of the Ramadan oilfield were among the projects also opened by the Deputy Prime Minister. The offshore oilfield is currently fitted up with all safety facilities.

The Minister's tour took him to the east of the Gulf of Suez where he opened a new water-injection unit at the Belayim Petroleum Company area. The unit is important for production because the injection of water maintains the pressure inside the reservoir so as to increase productivity.

CSO: 4500/220

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR AL-MANZILAH LAKE

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 24 Jun 82 p 2

[Text] The Executive Authority of El-Manzala lake has approved a plan worked out by a Canadian consultant bureau to develop the lake at a total cost of LE-400 million. The plan includes the implementation of seventeen projects over the coming two decades, the Chairman of the Authority, Mr Saad Meshaal, said yesterday.

The majority of the proposed projects represent fisheries because of the nature of the area low investment costs and rapid implementation opportunities. The report of the Canadian consultant bureau recommended the establishment of a number of fisheries at Bashteer area over an area of 1,000 feddans.

At the area of Om el-Reish the report recommended the establishment of fisheries over an area 1,100 feddans to produce about 1,000 tons of fish yearly worth to more than L.E. 730,000. The establishment of these fisheries will cost L.E. 2.8 million said Mr Meshaal.

The development plan of the lake also includes projects to improve fishing techniques and production of canned fish. The plan also includes the construction of a factory to process small fish into animal food.

As regards the storage of the fish, the report recommended the establishment of a number of giant refrigerators on the shores of the lake as well as a number of ice factories with a capacity of 150 tons of ice daily to cover the needs of the fisherman.

In the field of agriculture the report said that areas of the lake which have been reclaimed should be cultivated with crops that tolerate a highly salinated soil.

The report urged the concerned bodies to pay more attention to agricultural mechanisation to facilitate the cultivation of the dried areas of the lake and to cover the manpower shortage in these areas.

According to the report farmers should adopt a 3 year agricultural cycle with an open drainage system in order to control the salinity of the soil Mr Meshaal said.

The report said that a number of tourist projects can be established on the coasts of the lake in order to attract Egyptian and foreign tourists to the area. The report affirmed the importance of establishing a number of five-stars hotels and restaurants to accomodate the visitors.

CSO: 4500/220

BRIEFS

EGYPT OIL REFINERY--WORK has been started on the first oil refinery in Upper Egypt, a project to cover an area of 1,000 feddans at a total cost of L.E. 400 million, the Governor of Assiut, Mr. Zaki Badr, said yesterday. The refinery, which will be completed within two years, will be pumped with oil flowing through a 370 km long pipe line from oil fields on the coast of the Red Sea. The establishment of this pipe line will cost about L.E. 100 million, the Governor added. In the first stage, the project is expected to produce two million tons of butane gas yearly, which will meet the needs of Assiut and other governorates of Uper Egypt. Gas cylinders will be filled with butane in Assiut as a new station is to be opened there for this purpose. Until then, The Assiut area will continue to be serviced by gas cylinders filled in Cairo, Mr Zaki said. [Text] [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 22 Jun 82 p 3]

CSO: 4500/220

MOSCOW SCORED FOR NOT INTERVENING IN LEBANON CRISIS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Jun 82 p 2

[Editorial by S. Moadab]

[Text]

A French television commentator said last week "Up to now we thought every problem in the world could be solved if the two superpowers agreed. But in the recent Israeli invasion in Lebanon we see Russia absent".

To this Soviet absence in the most recent Middle East crisis, political analysts give several interpretations. Some people believe Moscow is at a standstill vis-a-vis the Zionists' crimes because there is a lack of harmonious leadership in Kremlin due to Brezhnev's illness.

Others assert Russia, despite all expectations, is giving the U.S. a free hand in Lebanon because she has very recently committed similar acts of genocide in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley.

Some Kremlinologists say Russia has never moved to help Arabs whenever Tel Aviv has launched a new provocation or a full scale attack against an Arab state. Their evidence is Moscow's position in the 1967 war when she did not supply the necessary sophisticated weapons to Nasser. The latest basis for this argument is that though Moscow has given its MiG 27 planes to Iraq to attack Iran, she has not put this war planes at Syria's disposal.

But whatever these Soviet analysts put forward as proof that Russia is not a credible ally, the naked fact is that Moscow has done absolutely nothing to halt the Israelis' assault on Lebanon. She will continue to do nothing even now that the PLO is threatened with massacre. To us none of this is surprising since we have known our big neighbor for a long time.

It is true that Russia was the first state to formally recognize Israel. It is true that Russia has been letting

its Jews go to occupy lands which have taken by force from the Palestinians. It is true that Russia is always at a loss in the Muslim countries because of Islam's philosophical antagonism to Marxism. Muslims will never embrace Moscow as a social model to build their societies upon.

Knowing all these realities we must also realize that Moscow will sell a Muslim state to a country which has no ideological heritage. Without wanting to praise the Somalian Ziad Bare we will never forget how Moscow sold Mogadishu to Addis Ababa. This is why, as a basic slogan in the Islamic Revolution, we have always shouted "Neither East Nor West but Islamic Republic".

Today Russia is completely open to suspicion for its mute policy on Lebanon. Why has not Moscow said a word to the Israelis to stop their innumerable crimes? Of course we know that she has all the means to effectively do so.

American political analysts say because the Kremlin does not want to endanger the disarmament talks, she prefers not to irritate the Americans. Of course Moscow has issued a warning statement asserting that any change of the "status quo" in Lebanon will endanger the security of the Soviet Union. But who does not know that this is nothing more than lip service.

At any rate the Third World has been taken by surprise to see its alleged savior giving a green light to the Zionists to do whatever they like in Lebanon. Whether this is because of the concessions it is trying to get in Kabul or Warsaw is another matter.

More surprising than all these amazing political events is that the man, who prior to the latest Israelis onslaught was the biggest butcher of Palestinians (Black September 1970), Amman's King Hussein, is paying a "friendly visit" during this "black June" prepared by Tel Aviv. This visit is not a simple fact-finding or arms purchasing affair. In our view King Hossein is in Moscow to buy arms for Iraq.

We believe sooner or later Russia must answer before international public opinion. A court to try Kremlin leaders, would have several common points with the one that should have been arranged to try Lyndon Baines Johnson for his crimes in Vietnam. The Soviet Union should be made to answer why it intervened in Afghanistan and why it let thousands of innocent Palestinian people be massacred?

There is no doubt that the Soviet Union is the second greatest superpower in the world. And for the same reason that she let Salvador Allende alone, she has decided to abandon the Palestinians at the time they most need help. The actual friends of Moscow in the Middle East, or in the Muslim states, must draw a lesson from the credibility of their comrades in Moscow.

Of course we condemn the conviction that because Moscow is unreliable one should resort to Washington. But who can disagree with the idea that Russia is the worst kind of ally at the time she is needed. To us this is already proved. We don't need any evidence to change our view. It is now up to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese refugees and orphans to see what a grave mistake their fathers had made in believing that Russia would come to their rescue in their hour of need. Some believe that the delayed reaction of Moscow has become its habit. This muteness of Moscow, for many in the world, is a clear sign of the unreliability of the Kremlin.

— S. MOADAB

CSO: 4600/640

BRIEFS

COUP PLOTTERS GO ON TRIAL--Tehran, (IRNA)--The trial of five members of the monarchist group "Nima" opened in the Military Revolutionary Tribunal here yesterday morning. Some 25 members of the counterrevolutionary group were arrested when their conspiracy was discovered by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards late last March. The trial was chaired by the head of the Military Revolutionary Tribunal, Hojjatoleslam Mohammadi Rey Shahri, who read the charges of the defendants. Hojjatoleslam Rey Shahri said that the group had nationalistic tendencies and intended to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran through the use of arms and military measures. The head of the tribunal added that the group had taken certain measures to overthrow the Islamic Republic and members of this group were working against the interests of the country and were anti-Islamic. Moreover, he added, members of the group had established ties with foreign circles in a bid to gain financial support and carry out activities such as extortion and kidnapping. The defendants were Kourosh Sadri, Hamid Baqeri Asghari, Manuchehr Suluki Karim Amirfarzan and Colonel Darush Dehqani. Two of the defendants in yesterday session defended themselves and the trial is to resume today. [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Jun 82 p 1]

MARTYR FOUNDATION'S AID TO REFUGEES--Damascus (IRNA)--A monthly aid would be given to serve the needs of Lebanese refugees now in Syria, according to Hujjat ul-Eslam Karrubi, the head of the Martyrs' Foundation who has just returned from his one week visit to Lebanon and Syria. Karrubi said that the Foundation along with Imam Khomeini's Relief Committee had given some \$100,000 worth of aid to the Amal Movement so that it could help the Lebanese refugees residing in the Lebanese town of Ba'albak. Hujjat ul-Eslam Karrubi speaking about the purpose of his visit said that the main issue was in relation to the Zionist aggression on Lebanon. Other aid, he said 100,000 Syrian liras for Iraqi refugees in Syria and some 100,000 sterlings for the Palestinian Red Crescent. During his visit the Iranian official also met with Iranian combatants (recently dispatched to Lebanon to fight against the Zionists) which he said were keeping their extraordinary morale. Also Karrubi said that a branch of the Martyrs' Foundation had been opened in Syria as well. [Text] [Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Jun 82 p 2]

CSO: 4600/646

ARABS HAVE ONLY SELVES TO BLAME

JN040709 Amman Jordan TIMES in English 4 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: "'We' Are to Blame"]

[Text] We Arabs have the habit of diverting our attention away from the real issues and of getting engaged, among ourselves, in verbal accusations and counter-accusations. Nowadays, we have managed to get U.S. President Ronald Reagan to play this game with us.

Some of us maintain that they are positively sure the U.S. Government has given the green light for the Israelis to invade Lebanon. Yet, they are not taking any action towards such a U.S. move. Furthermore, the Arabs do not seem to believe in their "beliefs" unless Mr Reagan himself utters those "beliefs" explicitly. And even then, they would put the whole affair under the rug, wishing that the U.S. president had never said it, and that they had never uttered the accusation in the first place.

What if Mr Reagan did admit publicly that the U.S. had been behind the invasion of Lebanon, what would the Arabs' reaction be? Most likely they would do nothing, except accuse him of forgetting the diplomatic niceties by publicly announcing the secret that everybody knows. The Arabs would then go on to find another pastime story in the chain of accusation and counter-accusations.

We Arabs must one day start blaming ourselves before blaming foreign countries. How can we ask foreign countries to politically and morally support our stand if such a stand does not exist, is not agreed upon, or is so transient and volatile? How can we ask for assistance from foreign countries if we are not assisting one another? How can we ask the U.S. to stop offering financial assistance to Israel if our funds are part of the money used for the purpose? How reliable allies have we proved to be, and why should foreign countries support us?

We may claim that there exist international political confinements dictating our policy. But so is the case with foreign countries, peoples and leaders. If the Arabs justify the restrictions for themselves, why do they negate them on others? If the Arabs do not know exactly what they want, how can they expect the world to understand them rationally and deal with them on a mutual, intelligent basis? In some situations, "putting up with it" proves to be more beneficial than launching hollow verbal attacks.

CSO: 4400/356

ARABS DOUBT U.S. EFFORTS IN LEBANON

JN080906 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jul 82

[Text] Under the headline, "Doubts on U.S. Efforts" AL-DUSTUR says: The Arabs and the Palestinians reject U.S. efforts, because they are ambiguous and suspicious. There is no confidence in the hidden intentions behind the U.S. claim that it is concerned about settling the crisis and establishing a strong Lebanese Government which will assert its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

The United States supports Israel's demands of disarming the joint Palestinian-Lebanese resistance. Had Washington requested the disarming of all armed factions in Lebanon, its request would have been reasonable and credible. Had the United States asked for the withdrawal of all forces at the same time from Lebanon, it would have found a responsive ear. But Washington wants the withdrawal and disarmament of the Palestinian resistance, because it supports Israel in its attempt to impose a sectarian government which would accept peace with it. The presence of the Palestinian resistance, even within the Lebanese army, prevents sectarian phalangist superiority. This is why Israel and the United States want to remove Palestinian presence from Lebanese territory. Palestinian presence on Lebanon territory which Washington is trying to remove, is the result of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and the eviction of Palestinians from their land.

It would have been better if the United States had remedied the essence of the problem by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their rights to self-determination and the right to return to their homeland. Had it done that, the Palestinians would not have had any presence in Lebanon. What Washington calls Palestinian terrorism is the result of Israeli aggression, which is still being practiced in Lebanon and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip against the Palestinian people. Logic says violence breeds violence.

All these biased stands in favor of Israel justify Arab and Palestinian doubts on U.S. efforts. This is also why the PLO rejected the U.S. proposal to send U.S. forces to Beirut to help solve the crisis. The resistance calls for a multinational force under UN supervision to solve the crisis and to work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, especially the Israelis. The idea of internationalizing the crisis, as called for by the French-Egyptian draft resolution to the UN Security Council, is better than giving the United States a free hand in the region, because Washington is captive to Israeli policy and thought. Everything it does depends on Israel's approval, the achievement of its expansionist designs and the imposition of its military hegemony in the region.

JORDAN

PLO DENIES PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE DIFFERENCES

JN081605 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Jul 82

[Text] Amman, 8 Jul (PETRA)--A statement received by the PLO office in Amman from the PLO's command in Beirut has indicated that coordination and consultations between the Palestinian resistance and the nationalist forces in Lebanon are continuing and that there exists a joint command that includes fighters from these sides.

This came in reply to repeated rumors on differences in opinion between the Palestinian resistance and the nationalist forces in Beirut and Lebanon. The statement said that the Palestinian resistance forces, which are confronting the U.S.-Israeli onslaught and fascist aggression, believe that the Lebanese-Palestinian relations has recorded in our Arab nation's contemporary history the most honorable cohesion at the battle front.

The statement said that the Palestinian delegation today met with the Lebanese delegation which represents the nationalist forces in the salvation committee. It included Shafiq al-Wazzan, Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri. Marwan Hamadh and Hasan Hashim attended the meeting, during which the U.S. conditions which were presented by Philip Habib to the Palestinian resistance were discussed. The two delegations also discussed the Palestinian working paper which was presented to the salvation committee and which Philip Habib insists on disregarding.

The statement said that the Palestinian side told the Lebanese side that the Palestinian working paper is at the disposal of the Lebanese nationalist forces in Beirut and that the resistance will agree to whatever is acceptable to these forces in order to drive the enemy away.

The statement said that the defense of Lebanon and the preservation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity is a guarantee for the Palestinian revolution and the rights of the Palestinian people. It said: This common struggle which we observe across this common trench, the joint aspirations and sacrifices and the pure and noble blood that has mixed in this sincere struggle united our peoples. The statement said that the resistance based its decision on its strong belief in the common destiny and the bonds of blood and for the sake of the heroic Lebanese people.

The statement emphasized that the Palestinian revolution's decision, which it conveyed to the nationalist forces, stemmed from its complete sense of responsibility and because these forces are the revolution's partners in blood, destiny and struggle. Thus, the Palestinian revolution's decision confirms the depth of its relations with these nationalist forces.

CSO: 4400/356

'AL-QABAS' ON U.S., ISRAELI MOVES TO 'TAME' PLO

GF031615 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 2 Jul 82 p 1

[Editorial: "'Taming' the PLO"]

[Text] Amid contacts, envoys' trips, statements of anxiety and worry over the Palestinian future, and amid the Arab absence, it seems that what Israel implicitly is seeking, what Washington is openly campaigning for and what Europe--particularly France--is driving at meet at a common point: turning the PLO into a tame political-information media establishment acceptable as a party by negotiators on autonomy rule and Palestinian self-determination as defined by the Camp David accords and allowing Israel to pass through the Lebanese gate into the Arab fortress.

Reagan indicated this objective without any equivocation. In his view, the solution for the Palestinian issue, according to the Camp David conceptions and proposals, will be finalized after the Lebanese house is put in order. One of the main factors for this "arrangement" is to deport all "armed Palestinians" from Lebanese territory. This means liquidating the PLO military structure without affecting its political base.

France is not far from this view. Concerned with the future of Palestine, External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson frankly told the French National Assembly that he wants the PLO with "one leg," meaning of course, the political leg. For him, the "military leg" was paralyzed during the current military situation in Beirut. This is why France dispatched an envoy to follow Habib and to aid him in "amputating" this leg among the Beirut debris.

The U.S. stand is the same as the French. While the United States echoes the Israeli stand by believing that the Palestinian rights recognized by the Camp David accords are merely limited administrative rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, France believes that rights for the Palestinians should equal those of the Israelis and can be achieved through negotiations stated in the "camp" accords.

What pains those who are clinging to their guns in Beirut is that the Franco-U.S. common denominator finds an echo in the Arab world. Arab efforts concentrate on the "head" of the resistance in Beirut, "saving" it from the siege and deporting it to a "safe capital." The ultimate price for this, of course, will be the PLO's military might.

That is why the resistance insists on survival and clings to its arms. That is why it is trying to reach an agreement with the Lebanese authorities that ensures at least a symbolic presence for it in Lebanon.

It is regrettable that advice for the PLO came not from an Arab capital but from one who was at one time one of its inveterate foes. Brzezinski, the former U.S. national security adviser--who said when he was in office "bye, bye, PLO," is now advising it to fight to the last breath and inflict maximum casualties on the invading Israeli forces. Brzezinski, who knows very well what goes on in the mind of the U.S. administration and knows the Israelis' abhorrence of casualties, also knows that the Palestinian rights will be lost if the resistance abandons its gun.

Since the result is one, whether it is through the storming of [Beirut] or by political solution, it is better to receive "defeat" on the battlefield than at the negotiating table.

Perhaps the six-man committee ministers currently meeting in al-Ta'if understand this and thus their resolutions will consolidate the Palestinian steadfastness, though support will be too late. It is steadfastness, and not "surrender" to Israeli insistence that will make Israel offer "concessions." We will not lose hope though previous experience has shown us the contrary.

CSO: 4400/356

DAILY URGES RECALL OF ARAB AMBASSADORS FROM U.S.

PM071545 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 3 Jul 82 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Miracle Strategy for Saving Beirut"]

[Text] After 3 weeks of Israeli siege around Beirut, the city's defenders are still waiting for an Arab miracle. The followup committee stemming from the Arab foreign minister's conference is still searching for a miracle strategy to save Beirut and prevent the massacre. Let us see how the committee is handling the crisis:

1. It has invited Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the armed gangs which deal openly with the enemy, to negotiate with him ways of saving Beirut, knowing perfectly well that he does not represent the lawful Lebanese authorities.
2. It has formed subcommittees to contact the various parties with a view to bringing pressure to bear on the world community and having it in turn pressure Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and abandon its plans to storm Beirut.
3. The Arab league secretary general made an optimistic statement about an imminent solution that would regulate relations between the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese authorities--all this while Israel is encircling Beirut and regulating Lebanese-Lebanese relations and Lebanese-Arab relations in its own way.

The committee undoubtedly knows that its dialogue with Bashir al-Jumayyil is tantamount to a dialogue with the Israeli enemy, who at any rate predetermines al-Jumayyil's moves.

Furthermore, the committee undoubtedly knows that the international community understands the situation and that the United States is the only side preventing the punishment of and indeed protecting the aggressor.

The United States used the veto twice a week to save the aggressor from having to withdraw. Therefore, if any pressure is to bear fruit it must be exerted on the United States, not other states.

We believe that the rescue of Beirut cannot wait until the Arabs agree on a definite strategy, which they have failed to do over the past 30 years. If it is difficult to mount any military Arab operation to break the siege of an Arab capital, the least that those who have gambled on American friendship can do is the following:

1. Recall the Arab ambassadors from Washington, if only for consultation.
2. Withdraw a few billion petrodollars from U.S. banks and deposit them in European, especially French banks.
3. Elect a member of the followup committee to perform the task of coordinating with France, Britain and other EEC members with the aim of submitting a new draft resolution to the security council.
4. Issue a joint statement signed by the Arab states which have no relations with the Soviet Union, expressing those states' gratitude for the Soviet, European and particularly French attitudes to the aggression committed against the Arab nation, and also asserting that the Arabs will deal with other states on the basis of their attitude to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance.

We do not believe that these moves, which are the minimum requirement, would cost the Arabs much, but at least they would indicate that we are still independent states capable of making our own decisions.

The miracle could still happen, even if the last defender of Beirut is martyred.

CSO: 4400/356

PAPER ON RELATIONS WITH USSR, U.S.

LD041130 Kuwait KUNA in English 1015 GMT 4 Jul 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 4 July (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials Sunday:

AL-QABAS on the Arab stand towards Washington and Moscow:

"Throwing ourselves in the Soviet lap is not necessary nor is the expulsion of America (from the Arab world). All we have to do is to prove to both Washington and Moscow that we not only distinguish between the enemy and the friend but we retaliate against the former, and reward the latter for standing to our side at times of trouble.

"What is necessary now is a sign from which the White House could understand that we are not slaves belonging to its ranch, who glorify the master's deeds the more he humiliates them and supplies their enemy with means of their annihilation.

"What is necessary is a sign from which the Kremlin could understand that we appreciate its friendship and its stand to our side, rather than ones admonishing it for inadequate support and insufficient aid.

"Perhaps a statement issued particularly at this time, that declares the Saudi kingdom's readiness to establish equal and balanced diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of respect to both the feelings and interests of the two peoples would be the necessary sign.

"The issuance of this statement in itself will make it clear to Washington the region is not exclusively hers....

"This will also prove to Moscow that we appreciate the meaning of friendship and do act in view of the Arab's own interest and not according to the American ones.

"The Saudi statement, on the readiness to establish ties with the Soviet Union, when issued will urge the American administration to think twice before encouraging the assault on Beirut, for this administration will realise it is being threatened at the heart of its interest."

'AL-WATAN' CALLS FOR U.S. BOYCOTT

PM011055 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Jun 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Boycott the United States"]

[Excerpts] The general feeling of the Arab man in the street is one of despair of the Arab regimes making a move to confront the barbarous Zionist aggression against Lebanon. The Arab countries' attitude toward Camp David has varied between so-called steadfastness or silence and acceptance. Likewise the attitude toward the present predicament ranged between the inability to confront or lack of desire to confront and nonobjection to the implementation of the prepared plan.

Until such time as all the cards are exposed and all the masks are torn away so that a spade will be called a spade, the Arab man in the street can do a great deal. In fact, he should move without waiting. Time is precious and the crime is of a greater proportion than anybody can imagine. In the final analysis it is the Arab man himself who is the target.

It is not true that it is only the Palestinians who are the target. It is not true that Lebanon is the target. The aim of those who destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor was not the Palestinians or the Lebanese; those who annexed the Golan did not find a single Palestinian or Lebanese there. The real target has been and still is the Arab will, which has been Israel's immediate target since it was established.

Clearly, what is required is to subjugate the Arab and to deal him a crushing blow that will cripple him forever. The idea is that all the Arabs should be crucified for the sake of Israel's security and ambitions that know no limits.

Therefore the Arab man in the street is called upon to move and jump over all the defeatist and shameful stands.

The Arab man in the street can move in two directions: One direction is to volunteer to fight against the crime in Lebanon and another is to boycott everything American as a measure against the overt conspiracy the United States is now engaged in through its participation in the present Israeli crime and every Israeli crime against the Arab nation.

Let us open wide the gates to volunteers not only from the Arab world but also from the Islamic world as far as its farthest reachers. What augurs well is that Iranians, Bangladeshis and Yemenis have been in the forefront of the volunteers to join the battle. We can imagine how much can be achieved if volunteers from among the Muslims of Asia and Africa, let alone the Arab world, pour in.

Our call to boycott everything American stems from the absolute belief, confirmed by daily evidence and even by statements of U.S. officials themselves, that the United States was in collusion with Israel from the first moment it invaded Lebanon, to be precise, the United States has been in collusion with Israel since it was created.

Yes, it is true that there is an Israeli crime, but there is an American crime as well. The Americans are full partners indeed, partners in the crime, a partner who feigned innocence until the naive Arab politicians believed that he was a partner in the solution.

Let the masses go out onto the streets to reject U.S. bases in the Arab lands.

Let the trade unions and federations move to boycott everything American. Let the Arab workers refuse to service U.S. aircraft and refrain from unloading U.S. ships, just as happened to the ship Cleopatra in 1956.

Let the Arab masses boycott all American goods.

Let us all firmly and seriously think of confronting the full partner in the crime.

Our nation does not lack the means for real confrontation and steadfastness. Just as they are fighting with rocks and bricks on the West Bank, let us fight with an even lesser thing--let us refuse to shake the American hand which is stained with Arab blood.

CSO: 4400/356

KUWAITI PAPER SCORNS SOVIET STAND ON LEBANON

GF291846 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Jun 82 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Thanks O Friend!"]

[Excerpts] In its latest issue the well-informed U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK reveals that the Soviet Union has held diplomatic contacts with Israel through the Finnish Embassy in Moscow. What is ironic about these contacts is not their form but their content: They included the Soviet Union's request to Israel to pledge not to attack or bomb the Soviet Embassy in Beirut during the present invasion.

Yes, the purpose of the contacts was not to convey a warning to Tel Aviv to stop slaughtering the Lebanese people and exterminating the Palestinian people. The purpose of the contacts was not to warn Israel of the consequences of its aggression, its usurping of Lebanese territory and its using internationally banned weapons to inflict the greatest loss possible in life and property. No, O Arab citizen who used to wake up and go to sleep by such slogans as "the friend and strategic ally, the defender of oppressed peoples, the only supporter of liberation movements and the enemy of imperialism"; no O Arab citizens / some of whom still talk about Moscow as though it were the mecca of our dreams and the land of salvation for all peoples confronting invasion and U.S. aggression. Moscow was not concerned with the fate of thousands of casualties or disturbed by the destruction of Sidon, Tyre, Bhamdun, 'Alyah, al-Damur, Qabr Shammun and then Beirut. No, the Soviet Union was busy addressing secret messages carried by Ambassador Soldatov to the leaders of the Palestinian resistance, who find no way of declaring their contents not because these messages bring hope or promise support, but because the Soviet leaders' messages merely contain slogans, advice and good wishes. It suffices for the Soviet Union that the Israeli aggression has diverted attention away from Afghanistan and Poland, and that the price of remaining silent on this aggression and the open abandoning of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese bureau will be the Reagan-Brezhnev meeting and an agreement on the reduction of strategic arms.

Is this the first or only time that the Arabs test their alliance with their "friend" onto to discover the truth of the saying: "O God, spare me the malice of my friends, and I'll take care of my enemies?" No, it is not the first or last time. 'Abd al-Nasir suffered a great deal from his relationship with the

Soviet Union, so much so that he developed the heart disease which killed him, as Zhou Enlai [Chou En-lai] remarked when he heard of 'Abd al-Nasir's death. For the past 2 years Iraq has suffered because of the Soviet Union's refusal to sell it arms, spare parts and ammunition. The matter did not stop at this despicable refusal; the Soviet Union went further and instigated a satellite and client state, the DPRK, to fight on Iran's side. It was the Soviet Union which encouraged and supported the hostile policy of some Arabs toward Iraq and the Arabism of the Gulf, hoping to be able to control Iran and to weaken Arab Iraq and the Gulf. Thus, communism could find a fertile ground in the region and reap the seeds of destruction when the Tudeh party succeeded the present rulers of Iran, and when Iraq split up into sectarian statelets, with one allied to Iran--which would then be under Soviet control--and another linked to the Soviet Union by geography and by the communist cells in Iranian Kordestan and Iraqi Kurdistan. Moreover, the attention of Iraq and the Arab Gulf states would be diverted away from the battle of national destiny against Israel--and this is what has actually happened and what we see clearly today.

All this takes place despite the fact that Iraq is linked to the Soviet Union by a treaty of friendship and cooperation which was signed 10 years ago. Syria is linked to the Soviet Union by an even firmer and closer treaty. Yet Syria finds itself now, as Iraq has in the past, facing a rancorous and racist foreign and U.S.-supported aggression, and the Arabs turn to the "great friend" only to find him silent as though his head is in the grave and his ears are in deep freeze. He has swallowed his tongue which he used to use continuously to utter threats and affirm his support for us to the last Arab.

We know that turning to the Soviet Union was the only alternative in the face of the U.S.-Israeli alliance, and prior to it the U.S.-Iranian alliance. However, our tragedy is that we have not yet learned how to make the enemy pay for its aggression, and how to make the "friend" shoulder the responsibility of his friendship. We do not know how to put an end to the U.S. crime or how to make Moscow respect our interests and not shrink from its responsibilities in the hour of need.

In its attitude to the Israeli invasion the Soviet Union has a big objective which we hope will not escape the Arabs. This objective is the destruction of the PLO and its leadership because this leadership refuses to fall in its lap. There is a more serious reason linked to this: Moscow fully realizes the degree of wrath and hatred that will spread in the Arab world, particularly among the Palestinian people, when the stabbing of the Palestinian stops and the blood that has been shed becomes cold, and the scene of death and destruction is imprinted in the minds and hearts of the people. Moscow realizes this and wagers that cells of destruction will grow and spread throughout the Arab countries and like an earthquake open the way for the spread of communism through the destruction which results.

CSO: 4400/356

KUWAITI PAPER URGES U.S. NOT TO LAND FORCES IN LEBANON

GF081050 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 8 Jul 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Americans Go Home: The Palestinian Resistance Will Not Die and Has Prepared for the Worse"]

[Text] Thirty-four years separate the visit to Lebanon by Robert Murphy, President Dwight Eisenhower's envoy, and the visit by Philip Habib, President Ronald Reagan's envoy.

Murphy's mission was to contain the Arab liberation movement led by President Jamal 'abd al-Nasir and to arrange for the election of a president for Lebanon. The U.S. landing in Lebanon, and Murphy's arrival, took place on 14 July 1958. The attempt to land U.S. forces in Lebanon which is being arranged by Philip Habib may also take place in July.

In his book "power with war," published by the Brookings Institute, on the aims of the U.S. landing in Lebanon, William (Quant), President Carter's adviser on Middle East affairs, says: "The decision was made as a result of a particular view of the Middle East that existed following the emergence of President 'Abd al-Nasir as a threatening force in the Middle East." (Quant) said President Eisenhower sent U.S. forces to Beirut "despite the threat of hostility from the Arab world" on the pretext of saving the Arab world from the Nasirite "Bogeyman." Now President Reagan is sending the Marines to the Lebanese shores to rescue the Palestinian resistance and save it from Israeli soldiers, although the fact is that the aim is to save Israel from the Palestinian bogeyman.

After 25 years, and despite the increasing official and popular indignation at U.S. policy in the area, the United States has not understood that the Arab people's rights and aspirations cannot be dealt with by the same policy charted by John Foster Dulles.

Seven American presidents have been in office since 1958, and none of them has yet succeeded in understanding the Arabs' rights and aspirations. The Marines will never be able to stifle the freedom of an individual or the aspirations of a people.

The new U.S. presence in Lebanon may be temporary, as Washington says. It is the second U.S. presence in the region; the other is in Sinai. The new U.S. military intervention, like the U.S. presence in Sinai, is rejected by the Arabs. The Arab leaders who in the past have rejected "any U.S. military presence on Arab territory" are called upon to raise the slogan "Americans go home." For the thousandth time the Arab peoples ask their leaders not to be content with raising a slogan but to act and exert real pressure to prevent a U.S. landing in Lebanon. It is necessary to recall that the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon does not mean its end at all.

1. Because the Arab homeland is vast.
2. Because U.S. interests in the Arab world are numerous.
3. Because the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of the invading forces for more than 1 month is proof that the Palestinian resistance will not die.

We recall what Abu 'Ammar said in his interview with the NEW YORK TIMES:
"I'm not worried. I've prepared for the worst."

CSO: 4400/356

GIRLS MUST JOIN ARMY

GF081005 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Kuwait, 7 July--Girls will be girls but they have an important role to play in the army, the country's defense minister was quoted here as saying.

It was the second time in recent months that the minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, came out in support of drafting women into defense establishment. He was addressing a gathering of girls at a club in 'Umariya, it was reported.

The nature of women does not qualify them to engage in combat but women can apply themselves usefully in other spheres of army operations. They can treat the injured, man communications sets and other equipment, radars, etc, the minister said.

In calling on women to join the army, the minister praised their role in the early days of Islam when, in his words, women actively participated in supporting and encouraging combat forces.

During his appearance, Shaykh Salim was asked about the difference of working for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Ministry of Defence. Replied the minister who originally studied law and later joined the Foreign Ministry: "The aspect of caring is the same. But in the former ministry stress is on patience, and charity. Fruits of work are often visible only after long time. On the other hand, work in the Defense Ministry resembles a beehive."

"We must ensure the security of Kuwait in the face of external dangers and external stability," the minister said.

"By implication, work in the defense establishment needs to bring more rapid results, people have to be efficient and determined."

In private life, Shaykh Salim is married with two sons and two daughters. One of his daughters, Barea al-Sabah, 22, is an outstanding equestrian.

Before becoming defense minister, Shaykh Salim served as ambassador in succession Britain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, USA, Venezuela and Canada. He is a great sports fan who actively supports several different activities in Kuwait.

Asked about the optimal length of military service, the minister replied the present one year compulsory service was adequate. He also praised Kuwaiti youth saying they were on the whole very serious about their service to the country. "The experience of compulsory military service has succeeded 100 percent in Kuwait," he was quoted as saying.

University graduates are called on to serve a single year in the army while others are drafted for 2 years.

Shaykh Salim did not think this period should be extended.

CSO: 4400/356

DEMAND FOR EXPATRIOT LABOR INCREASING

GFO41242 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 3 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] Kuwait, 2 July--Demand for foreign labor and Asians in particular is still increasing in Kuwait, a ministerial spokesman said here today.

New job openings were being created largely thanks to thriving trade activities and greater role being played by the private sector in general, the spokesman for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor told a local Arabic daily.

Against this background, a committee has been formed recently to group representatives of several ministries here who would have the task of 'ascertaining the real needs of each individual establishment.'

The committee comprises experts of the ministries of interior, social affairs and labor and commerce and industry, the spokesman said.

According to the ministry official, the committee will be a permanent body which will have at its disposal the maximum expertise in all fields to assess economical and social factors and to take appropriate decisions.

For some time now, Kuwait has been evaluating the labor situation and planners have been pointing out the disproportionate difference between the numbers of nationals (40 percent of the population) and expatriates (60 percent and rising).

In a recent decree, the Civil Service Commission ruled that 'aliens will not be able to seek posts in the ministries and other government establishments' though workers already serving with the government will be retained.

What concerns the planners is the vision of expatriates swamping in numbers the indigenous Kuwaitis and superimposing an alien, often non-Arab culture. Also discussed were means of conducting training courses for nationals and the exact size, role and sources of expatriate manpower.

"Expatriates will continue to play a principal role in the country's social and economic development," the official was quoted by AL-QABAS as saying. He stressed that Kuwait shares with other developing countries the problem of non-availability of required cadres and lack of educational schemes to train cadres locally in many vocational fields.

That's why employers make use, to their best ability, of the expatriate manpower and the guiding principles they apply are efficiency and cost.

More expatriates are expected to enter the country to work in the thriving private sector which is being given all the encouragement by the government now.

Already the trend 'nationals for the public sector and expatriates for the private sector' is quite apparent and in the coming years the tendency for the private sector to absorb more outside workers could be accentuated.

Muhammad Shabnan, the assistant undersecretary in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, outlined this trend when he dismissed recent rumors that "flow of foreign manpower is on the decline." He was talking to AL-QABAS in a recently published interview. He said also that the private sector was "on the threshold of accelerated activity."

In 1981 the private sector submitted 232,404 applications for work permits, he said. Of these, 215,192 were granted.

Demand for Asian labor escalated in 1981 and 60.5 percent of all the work permits were granted to non-Arab Asian nationalities.

Permits granted to Arab nationals accounted for 35.7 percent of the total, a slight decline. Europeans and Americans took 3.7 percent.

Egyptian workers topped the list of Arab nationalities as they accounted for 22.8 percent of the total work force in the country.

Emphasis in future will be more on quality and rationalization. While it is foreseen that the number of expatriates could be scaled down in the process, the chief aim of the planners will be to evaluate the needs of individual establishments and recommend the source of manpower.

In this way, better productivity will be attained, the daily commented. Also duplicity would be avoided.

CSO: 4400/356

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

NEW SHIPPING ROUTES--The Gulf's largest shipping line is planning new routes to Australia, New Zealand and South America because of a trade boom. The United Arab shipping company, based in Kuwait, announced this at the weekend, on the seventh anniversary of its launch. The new routes will be for container and meat ships, and reflect rapidly-expanding trade ties with Latin America and Australia. UASC is owned jointly by Bahrain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq and Kuwait. Last year it made more than BD35 million profit from its 55 ships. [Text] [GF031125 Manama Gulf DAILY NEWS in English 3 Jul 82 p 12]

CSO: 4400/356

TRIPOLI CLAIMS REPARATIONS FOR DAMAGE BY WORLD WAR II MINES

London AL-ZAHAF AL-ALHDAR in English 18 Jun 82 p 11

[Text]

TWO THOUSAND Libyans dead — after a terrible accident or from the struggle against Libya's enemies?

No, these two thousand Libyans died because of a war which was not of their making and which ended, on Libyan soil at least, thirty-nine years ago. Moreover, many of the dead were not even born when that war ended.

The statistics of Libya's continuing suffering from that almost forgotten conflict are indeed staggering. As of May, 1981 some 1,956 people had been killed and another 1,777 maimed for life by mines, unexploded bombs and shells and ammunition. Some ten thousand square kilometres of Libya's best agricultural land, 27 per cent of the country's total, remains unusable because it is still spiked with some twelve million mines left over from the Second World War.

Given that the suffering has continued to this day, a sudden explosion of sand and scrub bringing death or injury to someone in Libya every month, the death total must today be around two thousand with possibly almost as many maimed and injured.

How did this ghastly situation come about? The answer is that Libya was unfortunate enough to be

the convenient, if not inevitable location of other people's wars. Colonised by Italy from 1911 onwards, surrounded by French and British-controlled territory to east, west and south, it was inevitable that Libya would suffer if any of these powers were to come into conflict with one another.

Declaration of war

In June 1940, fascist Italy declared war on Britain and France just as the latter country was collapsing before the invading Germans. The Italians had hoped for early British surrender and more colonial spoils in Africa, but it was not to be. At the end of the year, the Italians invaded Egypt and were then repulsed and thrown back into Cyrenaica.

For the next three years, the Allied and Axis armies swept back and forth across Libya and Egypt's western desert. Italy was joined by Germany's Afrika Korps and given the desert's negligible cover, the awful military need for explosive fixed defences — namely mines — arose.

In both defence and attack, mines were a key weapon in the arsenals of

both sides. They blocked tank advances and protected infantrymen. They also killed and they did so indiscriminately. Not only soldiers of the combatant armies were killed, but also a lot of ordinary Libyan civilians, civilians who stood mute and could do nothing while their country was turned into a battlefield.

Eventually the pendulum swung decisively in the Allies' favour and they pushed on beyond Libya and into Tunisia. The British, Americans and French set up bases on Libyan soil and retreated into their secure military sanctuaries, not caring about the continuing human consequences of the war they had just fought.

Libya eventually regained nominal independence under Idris in 1951, but with the western allies in firm neo-colonialist control of the country, there was little that the Libyan government of the day could do, or for that matter was inclined to do. During the period of the monarchy, the truth about the way in which Libyan soil had been so abused during the Second World War began to emerge.

For example, it was discovered that the mine field at Buwairat was the largest in the world. It extended over a length of 45 kilometres with a width of one kilometre. It originally contained some 150,000 mines, of which a hundred thousand alone were removed in the period 1959-1962.

But this was a mere fraction of the total number of mines laid on Libyan soil. The estimate of twelve million is no more than that — an estimate. For neither the Allies nor the former Axis powers have furnished the Libyan authorities with the information necessary to safely dispose of the mines once and for all.

Bombs and explosives

Moreover, in addition to the mines, there are the countless unexploded bombs, artillery shells and rounds of ammunition, to say nothing of straight-forward explosive like sticks of dynamite and cases of TNT which lie beneath the surface of Libya's soil.

Ever since the September Revolution in 1969, the Libyan people have been trying to get the former combatants of the Second World War who fought in Libya to recognise that they are responsible for the continuing death and destruction which their activities during that war have caused.

Yet despite endorsement of Libya's legitimate demands not only for compensation, but also simply for the information — the minefield maps — which would help to neutralise the hidden threat, the full cooperation of the powers involved has not been forthcoming.

The world community and Libya's friends have not been slow to recognise the justice of the Libyan case. The United Nations' economic committee

agreed to the justice of Libyan demands for compensation for the death, injury and damage caused by the mines on November 25th, 1975. The voting was seventy in favour of the resolution with none voting against.

The resolution was approved in December 1975. Five years later, on December 5th 1980, the United Nations' General Assembly, debating the issue again, asked the former warring powers to furnish Libya and other affected countries with all the information necessary for the neutralisation of the minefields.

UN seminar

A few years ago a week-long UN seminar was held in Geneva on the subject and its findings were passed to the then UN Secretary General, Dr Kurt Waldheim. Its conclusions reinforced the consensus view that the UN adopted in previous UN resolution.

One of the former warring powers involved, West Germany, finally agreed in 1980 to consider the Libyan Jamahiriya's claim for compensation for damages suffered by Libyans as a result of German mines and munitions. For many years, the Libyans had been seeking the assistance of the British, Germans and Italians in providing the maps and charts which would lead bomb disposal squads to the minefields and permit their final removal.

Compensation claim

In response to the Libyan appeal to West Germany, Bonn's ambassador to Tripoli informed the Foreign Liaison Bureau in 1980 that the Federal Republic would consider the Libyan Jamahiriya's claims, as well

as the request for assistance in clearing the remaining mines.

The suffering which Libyans have had to endure because of the continuing lethal legacy of the Second World War has had the effect of making Libyans more aware than many people of the problems of the disabled, since so many of Libya's disabled have been 'disabled' by mines and explosives.

Thus Libya was the country which proposed in 1977 that 1981 be designated as the United Nations International Year of the Handicapped. While cooperation from the former warring powers over the mines and explosives on Libyan soil has not been forthcoming, the Libyan Jamahiriya itself has taken measures to care for those who have been maimed or injured by the mines.

Two new rehabilitation centres for the disabled, many of whom are victims of the mines, will be completed shortly in Tripoli and Benghazi. Built by Sweden's Skanska Cementgjuteriet, they have cost some \$74.8 million. Both centres will have a ten thousand square metre clinic and will be equipped with an X-ray department, an operating theatre, a rehabilitation workshop, a swimming pool and canteen. Each centre will be able to cater for 100 in-patients and between 150 to 200 out-patients.

Five social centres planned or under construction in Tripoli, Sebha, Gharian, Misrata and Derna will also be capable of looking after the interests of Libya's war victims. The above-mentioned medical and social facilities are of course in addition to the existing and continually expanding health and social services infrastructure in the Jamahiriya.

Minefield charts

Therefore no one can accuse the Libyan people of not looking after their own. What the Libyan people cannot do, except at great personal risk, is look for millions of mines without the original minefield charts which would enable bomb disposal squads to safely destroy them.

There is also the factor of the nature of the mines themselves. The technology has changed in the last forty years and information on the nature of the mines, the firing pins and the pressure required to detonate them and so forth, is essential for their safe disposal. Libya's forces can do the job and, gradually, they are doing it without maps and the information they need. But Libyans deal with these mines at great and continuing personal risk.

Responsibility

In the last analysis, there is a principle at stake in this issue. Do the former warring powers, the British, Germans and Italians accept that, for whatever reasons, they fought their war on another country's sovereign territory and that in consequence they are responsible to that country and its people for the death and injury which they have caused?

This basic principle is accepted, albeit for political reasons, by the West Germans in Europe. They have paid compensation to the victims of Nazi persecution since the war. But mines are not persecution, they are simply indiscriminate lethal devices of war. Thus all the powers involved, victors and vanquished, have a moral responsibility to clear up the mess they have left behind them.

INTERIOR MINISTRY EASES RULES OF LABOR IMPORT

Jiddah SAUDI BUSINESS in English No 11, 9 Jul 82 pp 5-6

[Article by Javid Hassan]

[Text]

IN ORDER to ease procedures for the import of labor in the Kingdom, the Interior Ministry, under instructions from Deputy Minister Prince Ahmad, has decided to waive the condition requiring the presentation of a certificate on the employee's criminal record in the visa controller's office in Riyadh. The certificate can now be submitted to the embassy concerned, Director-General for Visa Control Dr. Abdul Jaleel Al-Saif told *Saudi Business* last week. This condition, he said, also applies to the import of farmers and servants from the Arab world.

According to Dr. Al-Saif, the old practice of producing a certificate on the employee's criminal record at the base office in Riyadh was found to be time-consuming. "By the time it was scrutinized the whole procedure took about three to four months, causing a lot of delay. Now under the new rule the employer need produce only the contract. The certificate showing that the employee has no criminal record can be submitted at the embassy concerned."

The ministry has also widened the scope for expatriates wishing to bring their families on a permanent visa (iqama). The new regulation, which applies to all those working in the government or private sector deemed essential to national needs, is within the framework of the Kingdom's policy of maintaining a manpower balance, Dr.

Al-Saif said. According to him, there was a 32 percent increase in the issue of visas last year over the year before.

Last year as many as 849,343 visas were issued to applicants from 97 nationalities against 643,230 in 1980. This coincides with a growing outward movement of foreign manpower from the Kingdom, with the number of arrivals last year standing at 2,844,356 and departures at 3,610,086. "Relatively speaking, there is no increase. We are simply restoring the manpower balance in terms of a well-defined policy," Dr. Al-Saif said.

Referring to the relaxation of curbs on the bringing of families, the director-general said, "In the past only doctors, engineers, pharmacists and certain categories of specialists could bring their families. Now anyone who has a university degree or a technical high school certificate with matching experience can settle with his family," Dr. Al-Saif said, adding, "No salary certificate will be required from those working in the ministries or the government sector. All they have to produce is a certificate to the effect that they are employed in the particular ministry."

For employees of private establishments working in the health sector, the minimum salary is SR3,000. This minimum (with no salary certificate required) is also available to employees in the educational or any sector recognized as vital to the Kingdom's needs.

For employees in the construction industry, the minimum salary is SR4,000, provided they have a certificate from a technical high school or above and have accommodation facilities. For those working as administrators either in the government or private sector, the minimum salary is SR5,000, the director-general said.

According to him, experience will also be taken into account in some cases (for example, in the defense, banking, airline and maritime fields or desalting plants and power stations) even if the applicant does not have the necessary educational qualification. Applications will also be considered from those born in the Kingdom or residing there for the past ten years. Also eligible for consideration will be those educated in the Kingdom with primary, junior high and higher secondary education.

Dr. Al-Saif clarified that domestic servants can be brought from any country — Arab or non-Arab. He was responding to a press report indicating that the Kingdom's future policy might favor induction of domestic servants from the Arab world. "Our policy is to balance the import of such labor so that recruitment from no single country becomes lopsided."

Referring to press reports about the abandonment of workers by their spon-

sors, he said such cases are not widespread. "We are dealing with 156,000 applicants in this office and the percentage of violations is very small."

He disclosed that 184 defaulting establishments were stopped completely from recruiting labor last year. These establishments have been black-listed and their names circulated among all recruiting agencies. In addition, 89 establishments have been suspended from recruitment of labor for a specified period "and they are under close scrutiny." A third category of 200 establishments that appear to have violated visa requirements have been suspended from operating for a period ranging from one to two years. This category includes some establishments "which did not show seriousness in meeting the requirements for visas. It was therefore decided that no action should be taken in the processing of their applications," Dr. Al-Saif said. Apart from a suspension or ban on labor recruitment by the defaulting firms, some company officials have been subjected to penalty or imprisonment.

Al-Saif said that malpractices have been held in check by the tight control of his department. Besides the deterrent of punishment handed out to the offenders, the department also tracks down

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH REPORTS ON LEBANON, U.S. PEACEKEEPING PROPOSALS

LD071440 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] News reports today indicated the deterioration of events and the continuation of tension and alertness, of the fear of an Israeli invasion of West Beirut. All observers' reports stress that if this took place it would be the spark that will set light to the situation in the whole region. The truth is that Israel still insists on its position which includes its resentment of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon; and because it is not easy for Tel Aviv to crush the Palestinian resistance which is concentrated in West Beirut political contacts on this issue dominate international discussions and moves.

Political observers agree that Israeli obstinancy and the continuation of its aggressive intentions against the Palestinians, (?which is the reason for) the resistance's refusal to lay down its arms or abandon its position in West Beirut, the important development in the siege of Beirut and the position on the Lebanese arena generally was, according to news reports, behind Washington's idea of taking part in a multi-national force for peace keeping in Beirut.

Observers of the situation agree that any intervention that is in conflict with the legitimate authority in Lebanon will lead to an escalation of the intensity of the situation and [word indistinct] the situation stipulating the necessity of the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, not only from Beirut, but from Lebanese territories generally.

In any case, the U.S. role regarding the Beirut crisis is much required. However the political dimension of that role can be shown by putting pressure on Tel Aviv to achieve withdrawal from around Beirut and by endeavouring to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through constructive dialogue, which would seriously contribute to making peace in the region.

However, the movement of some U.S. ships in the Mediterranean has led to a change in Israeli calculations, has led to its violation of the cease-fire and the shelling of residential conglomerates in West Beirut. Political observers agree that recent U.S. moves indicate a confirmation of Washington's desire for a continuation of the PLO's presence. This development is behind Menahem Begin's government holding a meeting today in Tel Aviv to discuss what were described as U.S. proposals relating to the situation in the region.

However the pressing question concerns the position of the Palestinians themselves. Regarding this, Palestinian officials stress their rejection of Washington's proposals, even though they have agreed to the proposals recently submitted by France to end the conflict in Beirut. Head of the PLO department Faruq Qaddumi has said: We agree with the French initiative stipulating the withdrawal of Israeli forces by 15 kilometers, concerning the Palestinian presence the Palestinian official said after a meeting with the Italian foreign minister in Paris: We are prepared to move out of Lebanese towns and to agree with the legitimate government on organizing a Palestinian presence within Lebanese sovereignty.

Will a relaxation of the situation in Lebanon be achieved before the occurrence of a development that could lead to military and political complication of the situation?

CSO: 4400/353

SAUDI PRESS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

LD021432 Riyadh SPA in English 1203 GMT 2 Jun 82

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 2 July (SPA)--A Saudi newspaper today called on the United States to force Israel to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanon, and said the success of Saudi diplomacy had foiled Israel's aim to liquidate the PLO.

The Jidda-published 'UKAZ, in an editorial, said "Washington is now called upon not only to ensure a disengagement in West Beirut and its suburbs but also to force Israel to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanese territory in line with the international will represented in Security Council resolutions 508 and 509."

It added that the U.S. should also "change its concept about the PLO," saying "the terrorist is not Yasir 'Arafat (the PLO chairman) but Menahem Begin (the Israeli prime minister), since a terrorist is not he who seeks to achieve his right but who usurps other people's rights."

The paper paid tribute to the "gallant steadfastness of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO in West Beirut," and said the success of Saudi diplomacy had "foiled Israel's aim, namely to liquidate the PLO."

It noted that during the Lebanese crisis the kingdom had used all its influence, weight and good relations, and this led to the world "beginning to appreciate the magnanimity of the barbaric invasion launched by Israeli forces on Lebanon."

Another Saudi newspaper published in Jidda--AL-MADINAH--also paid tribute to the resistance put out by the Palestinian commando movement and its "heroic deeds in confronting the invasion and defending Palestinian existence."

The commandos now besieged in Beirut illustrated at the "hope of the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab and Islamic world in general to smash the Israeli enemy's vanity and its intentions to liquidate the Palestinian people," it said.

The paper referred to diplomatic efforts made by the kingdom to lift the siege on Beirut and terminate the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

AL-MADINAH said Saudi Arabia had led with resort to all possible means and all quarters in the world to limit the losses and save what could be rescued.

It called for a united Arab stand to "face the present serious phase through which the Arab nation is passing."

CSO: 4400/353

PAPERS ATTACK U.S. 'COLLUSION' WITH ISRAEL

LD071334 Riyadh SPA in English 1204 GMT 7 Jul 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 7 July (SPA)--Saudi newspapers today accused the U.S. of collusion with Israel in weakening the Palestinian struggle and called for a collective Arab military action to force Israel to lift its siege of West Beirut.

AL-RIYAD, published here said a cease fire in Lebanon was realised through the kingdom's diplomatic efforts and its ardent commitment to defend Arab causes.

The paper called on the Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities and warned them against the dangers of the coming phase. It criticised the U.S. stand in supporting the "Zionist enemy designs and interests in the region."

The Jidda-based al-Bilad said the kingdom's international efforts in support of Lebanon had achieved good results by "exposing the Israeli massacre of the Lebanese and Palestinian people to the world public opinion."

The paper added that the kingdom's Arab responsibilities had enabled it to devise positive stands in support of the Islamic [words indistinct] at the international level.

[Words indistinct] that the kingdom had "spared no political, military or economic effort in the [words indistinct] the Lebanese issue, since [words indistinct] the Israeli invasion."

Meanwhile another Jidda newspaper, 'UKAZ deplored "the enemy's crime of cutting off water and electricity supplies to the inhabitants of West Beirut."

'UKAZ said the cut off electricity had forced hospitals and clinics to stop their essential services. "This is tantamount to genocide similar to the Nazi crimes and should be condemned by the whole world, it added. It said the invasion was an Israeli conspiracy aimed at liquidating the Palestinian struggle and paving way for the Zionist enemy to continue its expansionist policy in the Middle East region." The paper accused U.S. envoy Philip Habib

of collusion with the Israeli for his role to "achieve the Zionist enemy aims in weakening the Palestinian struggle and installing a puppet regime in Lebanon under Zionist protection.

"Israel's hostile attitude in the region and its trampling on Arab and Palestinian dignity will encourage instability and pave the way for communist infiltration of the area," the paper said.

CSO: 4400/353

SAUDI ARABIA

STUBBORN STANDS MAY LEAD TO 'WAR OF CHALLENGE' IN LEBANON

LD032236 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Husany al-Askari commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian resistance affirmed its intention against surrendering to the Israeli enemy's demands, namely unconditional [PLO] withdrawal from Beirut, leaving its heavy weaponry behind.

The Palestinian resistance leadership announced in Beirut that they will not leave Beirut, whether by land, sea or air, and that they are ready to negotiate with the Lebanese Government about the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. This, it seems, is the final stand on which the Palestinian resistance insists while affirming its desire to spare the Western sector of Beirut from destruction in case the Israeli enemy forces attempt to storm the area to force the resistance to leave. Such storming would lead to a horrific battle in which the Israeli forces would pay a very dear price. This matter is forcing Israel to reconsider meticulously its calculations despite the psychological war which it wages against Beirut's population to force it to leave in order to facilitate the storming of the area.

Military experts say the Palestinian resistance will be ready to defend its existence from street to street, even from one building to another.

In the midst of tension which is still prevailing over the situation and signalling the occurrence of a catastrophe at any moment, political efforts continue to contain the situation. However, the effectiveness of these efforts, and particularly those exerted on the Lebanese area, are still hampered by numerous difficulties owing to the insistence of each party on its stubborn stand, while the Israeli enemy continues its pressure on events in order to force its option by force. This is what the Palestinians and Lebanese are rejecting. Therefore the situation in Lebanon is liable to explode between one minute and the next, and a dangerous situation will be the inevitable result of the war of challenge which has become imminent.

CSO: 4400/353

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO COMPUTERIZE SERVICES

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 28 Jun 82 p 2

[Article by Suresh Shah]

[Text]

JEDDAH, June 27 — In a bid to provide efficient services and meet the expanding needs of the fast growing membership, the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be fully computerizing its major departments by October 1982. The scheme is estimated to cost SR2 million.

The chamber began Sunday an English language computer training course for 14 persons with an eye on securing the need for computer trained personnel to man the new system, according to Othman Basager, JCCI's computer unit manager. The course continues until July 9.

Basager told *Arab News* Sunday that JCCI membership has recently grown by leaps and bounds. In 1979, the figure was 1,255; 1,532 in 1975; 7,000 in 1980. Now it has jumped up to 11,268. To cater for the expanding local demand and meet overseas increasing inquiries which are prompted by the booming trade in the Kingdom, it became necessary for the chamber to computerize some of its services, he said.

An Arabic training course for nearly 25 employees working in different departments of chamber will be organized from July 27 to Aug. 15. The entire training will cover nine different aspects of JCCI's major activities. The special training in English and Arabic will teach the participants operation of computer terminals, data collection systems, master file maintenance, membership records with full details, background information, preparation of payrolls for employees,

maintenance of general ledger, cash system, accounts payable and receivables.

On completion of both courses, the participants will get practical training in departments. Actual service to members is expected to start in October, said Basager. The chamber has received the necessary hardware for the computerization of its services from a well known American firm. It consists of eight terminals, one computer processing unit, three printers, one tape reader and two desk units, each with half megabyte, he added.

Initially the three departments to be computerized will be concerning membership, information center and account section along with cashier. It will help greatly in providing certain services in a matter of seconds where it used to take much more time. There are eight different systems for keeping the membership records.

"You just push the code number and get all information about the member, his capital, C.R. number, number of employees, type of products and full background of the business," he said. It will be easy to prepare payrolls for employees in minutes, which takes several days now, he added.

Basager said, the chamber will have special and one of the best computerized systems for cash and accounts sections. "Now people have to wait for 20 to 30 minutes, but computerization will reduce the time to a maximum of 15 seconds initially for completion of all formalities, which will be cut further to seven to eight seconds after full practical training," he said.

SAFCO'S PROFITS UP

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 26 Jun 82 p 2

[Text]

DAMMAM, June 25 (SPA) — The Saudi Arabian Fertilizers Company's efforts to improve its production paid off handsomely as its profits made a clear upward trend during 1981. Total profits reached SR220 million, according to SAFCO's annual report. The company produced 342,289 metric tons of urea during the last year.

The report referred to the Council of Ministers' decision this year calling for the transfer of ownership of state shares in SAFCO to the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC). The government's shares in SAFCO's equity account for 410,000 while private sector subscribers hold some 490,000. The remaining 100,000 shares are owned by SAFCO employees.

Since it began urea production in 1970, the company had utilized natural gas by using it as the major raw material in the manufacture of fertilizers. It uses about 40 million cubic feet of natural gas daily, the report said.

SAFCO also contributed to the establishment of similar petrochemical industries in the Kingdom. In addition, it expanded its programs to train and develop national qualified personnel.

The report states that SAFCO has an ammonia plant with a daily productive capacity of 600 tons. The plant's liquid starch production is used in the manufacture of fertilizers. Another of the company's factories, is the urea plant whose daily production exceeds 1,000 tons. Besides, there is the sulphuric acid plant which produces 300 tons per day. An affiliate unit, extracts raw sulphur at a capacity of 35 tons daily.

SAFCO also has units for electricity, distilled water, cooling water and pressurized air thus achieving self-sufficiency in the requirements for its production operations.

Under an advanced development program, SAFCO has embarked on introducing regu-

lar improvements on the major equipment of its factory and raising the standard of efficiency among its workers. It also contributes to the development of agriculture in the Kingdom by providing farmers with technical know-how and proper methods of using fertilizers. Teams of agricultural guides in the company assume this task.

Dwelling on the company's exports, the report said that the Kingdom has become, during the past 10 years, one of the leading countries which export high quality urea fertilizers. SAFCO's production reaches now to numerous countries in the five continents — from Mexico to the west, the Philippines in the east, Turkey to the north and Zambia to the south.

Out of its total production in 1981, SAFCO has exported 288,282 tons to 13 countries, the report mentioned.

On the training sector, the company strives to qualify nationals through various programs for leading administrative positions. Last year it sent 62 of its employees abroad for training while another 63 were enrolled at local universities. SAFCO also trained 90 personnel for the Jubail Fertilizers company and 43 for the Saudi Methanol Company.

A project for building 250 housing units for employees is already underway, the report said. A mosque, a clinic, a school for children, a recreation center, sports facilities and gardens also are underway at the company's residential camp in Dammam. This project will be completed next year.

SAFCO introduced some changes in its urea producing plant and the methods of treating water to protect the environment against pollution. The move produced satisfactory results in protecting the surrounding areas. The company has prepared a working program for this purpose and a team of specialists in chemical analysis is pursuing it, the report said.

BRIEFS

CENTRAL REGION DAMS--The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Awarded an SR36 million contract to a national company to build 15 dams in the Central Region. The dams will be built under the contract at Athithah, Halifah, Alirah, Hariq, Nafi, Isam, Jufaini, Thumairiya, Asheerah, Boudah, Tuwaim, Hijaziya Sadriya, Mahalla and Mazwi. The dams, to be completed within 15 months, will be between 80 and 150 meters long and six to 12 meters in height. During the last four months, 60 dams were built in different parts of the Kingdom. The United Arab Shipping Company awarded the biggest contract for building nine vessels and 15,000 containers. The contract also calls for training of nationals of member states of the Company and other Arab states, according to the firm's chairman, Ahmad Yusuf Al-Turki. [Text] [Jiddah SAUDI BUSINESS in English No 8, 18 Jun 82 p 39]

SHIPPING COMPANY INCREASES CAPITAL--June 7--The Riyadh-based National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia has decided to increase the capital of the company from SR500 million to SR2 billion. It has also hiked the liability-assets ratio and added two more members to the board of directors of seven. The company is also purchasing four ships from Sweden, totally costing about \$240 million. They are the latest and largest ro-ro ships of 38,500 dead-weight tons each and has the capability of carrying 2,000 containers and 700 cars at a time. [Text] [Jiddah SAUDI BUSINESS in English No 8, 18 Jun 82 p 39]

INDIAN DOCTORS RECRUITED--Saudi Arabia has recruited 350 doctors from India to man the new hospitals and dispensaries being built in the Kingdom. The doctors are mainly specialists and are recruited from the states of Bihar and Kashmir. It is the first time that the Kingdom has taken so many Indian doctors. Previously it used to bring doctors from Pakistan and Bangladesh. [Text] [Jiddah SAUDI BUSINESS in English No 10, 2 Jul 82 p 31]

SALARY BONUSES--Taif, June 26 (SPA)--King Fahd Saturday ordered the payment of a one month additional salary paid to all civil servants, military person personnel and people receiving annual grants or social security pensions in Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The King also ordered the payment of SR15 million to philanthropic societies all over the Kingdom and SR40 million to the needy everywhere in Saudi Arabia. He also decreed that SR60 million be spent on the construction and renovation of mosques. The money will also be used to pay the debts of indebted prisoners or those unable to pay their fines. As many such prisoners as possible will be released to be given a new chance in life if they really repent. [Text] [Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 27 Jun 82 p 1]

BRIEFS

SAUDI AID ARRIVES IN LEBANON--Jidda 26 Jun (SPA)--In the past 5 days Saudi aircraft, loaded with 200 tons of relief materials, which include medicine, medical supplies, tents, blankets and food supplies, given by the kingdom to victims of Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, arrived in Larnaca, Cyprus. ('Abd al-Ghani), general secretary of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, announced that this aid actually reached Lebanon through Cyprus. He appealed to peace-loving peoples to give aid to the victims, providing that this aid is confined to food supplies, in view of the urgent need for this now. The kingdom contributed 20 million rials for the relief of victims of Israeli aggression against Lebanon. One million dollars of this sum, at the instruction of his Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was allocated to UNICEF to assist in carrying out its humane task to rescue the victims of the tyrannic Israeli aggression against Lebanon. As for the remainder of the sum it was directed at sending food, medicine, tents, and blankets to about 90,000 destitute persons. [Text] [LD261808 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1508 GMT 26 Jun 82]

SAUDI PRESSURE OVER LEBANON--On the political level AL-RIYAD yesterday contacted the office of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his aides, and learned the following: 1. That the resignations of the Lebanese prime minister and of Walid Junblatt from the National Salvation Council and the stand taken by the Lebanese Muslims and national movement against the aggression are closely related to the resignation of U.S. Secretary of State Haig, whose name was linked to the invasion and to the support given to Begin and Sharon, and that Saudi pressure was behind these two developments, which can be considered an important part of the moves to ensure steadfastness and foil the plot. 2. That, thanks to the principled and consistent Saudi attitude, there is now a unified Arab stand in support of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people. This is due to Saudi influence on the Arab world. This has also affected the international attitude, which is now moving forward, as demonstrated, for example, by the French draft resolution which was vetoed by the United States, and Europe's vote at the UN General Assembly in favor of the resolution condemning Israel and calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces. 3. That the Palestinians have completely rejected all the terms presented by Philip Habib, that some of these terms were not even studied, and that 'Arafat emphasized to those around him that the Israeli conditions will not be met, whatever the cost. [Unattributed report: "Saudi Arabia Influences Political Situation"] [Text] [PM060901 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 28 Jun 82 p 1]

CSO: 4400/353

AVIATION DIRECTOR SUGGESTS FEDERAL COORDINATION

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 8 Jun 82 p 3

[Text]

ABU DHABI (Al Khaleej): Some civil aviation officials have been talking these days about the need for setting up a federal aviation corporation or council to supervise aviation affairs in the UAE.

Director of aviation and ports department in Sharjah Mohamed Saif Al Hajri said that there are four airports in the country, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah and all of them are supervised by local governments.

There is no coordination between the four airports and each of them works within the limits of its geographical boundaries without seeking technical aid or consultation from the other airports.

Over the last few days, Hajri said, there have been proposals to coordinate between airports and there were consultations between Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah airports over some airlines' demand to increase fares.

A meeting, attended by the Communications Minister and Under-Secretary of the Ministry, also reviewed a number of issues, including the possibility of setting up a federal aviation corporation or council, the freedom of aviation in the country's air space and the protection of some airlines mainly Gulf Air.

Al Hajri added that the setting up of such federal authority will solve a number of issues, such as problems of airlines, such as marketing, and the reactivation of the airports which do not have substantial flight movements.

Speaking about the Communi-

cations Ministry's civil aviation department, Hajri said that the department does not have full authority to supervise or coordinate between airports, as the local governments carry out such work.

He added, however, that if a Federal authority is set up, it will be supported by the agreement to be reached by civil aviation officials of the country's airports and will help coordinate between these airports.

It shall also have full authority, through decisions to be issued by the Council of Ministers, to regulate flights bearing in mind the fact that these airports are non-profit making ones and should services of a utility nature.

Another aspect is that some airports give service discounts to a number of airlines to induce them to use these airports. But if an authority is set up it will handle these airlines in the interest of all airports.

Abdalla Al Ansari, deputy general director of DNATA office, which has over 25 years experience in aviation and handles the activities of 27 airlines and employs, 2,200 people, said that DNATA office is like other office. If a federal aviation authority is set up, the DNATA office will be the first to welcome it and shall join it.

He added that office will also provide the authority the benefit of its long experience in this field which shall coordinate between the airlines, unify air fares and secure better services for passengers.

Director of the civil aviation department at the Dubai airport Mohi Eldin

Abdul Gadir bin Hindi said that all airlines submit their fares to the civil aviation department in the concerned emirate for approval. But, he added, the department has nothing to do with the fare discounting by airlines.

Bin Hindi added that "all other problems are usually solved by the civil aviation department in the Communications Ministry with which we have full and continuous coordination."

Bin Hindi added that there was no need for setting up a federal authority. Instead, airport officials could hold regular meetings to solve the problems facing them.

CSO: 4400/347

BRIEFS

COMMERCIAL BANK ASSETS RISE--DUBAI (WAM)--The total assets of commercial banks operating in UAE registered an increase of Dh. 13 billion toward the end of the first quarter of this year, compared with the same period of last year, Al Bayan Arabic daily reported Thursday. According to a statistical review issued by the Central Bank, the assets rose from Dh. 54.1 billion in the three-month period ending March last year, to Dh. 67.6 billion in the first quarter of 1982. The capital and the reserves of these banks increased from Dh. 5.76 billion to Dh. 8.78 billion during the respective quarters. Bank credit increased from Dh. 29.77 billion in the first quarter of 1981 to Dh. 35.45 billion for the corresponding period this year, while bank deposits increased from Dh. 27.43 billion to Dh. 30.87 billion. The expenditure of ministries rose to Dh. 3.4 billion in the three-month period January-March 1982 from Dh. 1.4 billion in the first quarter of last year. Current expenditure totalled Dh. 3.5 billion in the first quarter of 1982, development expenditure Dh. 163.7 million and contributions Dh. 163.3 million, compared to Dh. 1.12 billion, Dh. 278.1 million and Dh. 1.2 million respectively, during the same period of 1981. The Central Bank's expenditure increased from Dh. 10.82 billion in the first quarter of 1981 to Dh. 13.23 billion in the corresponding period this year. [Text] [Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 18 Jun 82 p 3

CSO: 4400/347

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED BY 'AR-RA 'Y AL-'AMM'

GF181706 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Interview granted by Yar President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to 'last issue' of Yar newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM--date not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, at a time when our Arab homeland is in a state of unprecedented fragmentation, not because of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and on the Palestinians and Lebanes peoples, but because of the weak stands by the Arab countries, as a result of which the aggression underlines our country's pioneering role in adopting a sincere stand to support the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese resistance and to actively participate in the battle, what is the extent of the people's response to our country's clear stand?

[Answer] What is known to all is our people's great readiness to join the Palestinian revolution to struggle with the Lebanese people. There is no doubt that our country's principled political stand and our determined commitment to the Palestinian issue--which is our nation's central issue--which we have frequently adopted on more than one occasion and in more than one national initiative, has opened the door for the people to express their feelings toward the Palestinian revolution and against the Zionist aggression on the Arab nation and to promptly join the front ranks advancing toward the battlefield, particularly since we have opened camps to train and arm the volunteers and to dispatch them to the battlefield. This has encouraged the Yemeni people to sacrifice their lives to achieve the victory to which the Arab nation--and not only the Arab people in Lebanon and [words indistinct]--aspires.

[Question] The people have seen and heard of the departure of groups of volunteers to the battlefield in Lebanon. How are the volunteers trained, prepared and dispatched?

[Answer] First of all, all our people are trained and well-prepared for this. As soon as a Yemeni citizen becomes 12-years old he is trained in the use of arms, particularly light ones. Nevertheless, we put them into our volunteer camps to give them short and quick training. We try our best to put at the head of every group of volunteers a highly experienced leader to lead them.

[Question] The PLO has announced that the YAR is the only Arab country which participates in the fateful battle against the Israelis aggressions on Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution. Are there other forms of participation by the YAR other than sending volunteers.

[Answer] We firmly believe that the Palestinian issue is our Arab nation's central and main issue. We affirmed--and we affirm--that the Arab nation and the Arab homeland will not achieve complete sovereignty and independence nor will it achieve development and prosperity unless we liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore Palestine and unless our Palestinian people return to their land and establish their independent state on it. Therefore, we consider the participation in the battle of the Palestinian struggle and the battle of Arab dignity and honor a duty of all Arab countries and every Arab citizen. Our people believe that joining the Palestinian revolution to wage struggle is the only way to sacrifice their lives, the most valuable thing one can offer for the sake of the Palestinian issue under the principle: The sacrifice of life is the highest form of sacrifice. This does not mean we will not offer all the material aid we can. We still offer this. However, any other contribution will not rise to the level of sacrificing life, which our people have chosen as a tax for the national duty.

[Question] Lebanon has called for holding an Arab summit at a time when Lebanon and some countries call for postponing Arab foreign ministers meetings and conferences. What is our country's stand toward Lebanon's request to hold an Arab summit?

[Answer] Our country agreed in principle to convening an Arab summit on the condition that there is Arab unanimity on holding it at the level of leaders to enable them through their meetings and consultations to adopt the correct practical resolutions and to implement them now more than ever because we are in dire need of practical Arab solidarity and sincere action. The current stage does not require words or verbal confirmation of readiness. We are overtaken by time, and enemies take advantage of our fragmentation and differences to realize their goals and ambitions in our Arab homeland and nation, which possesses more than one weapon and measure through which it can pressure the United States, or at least keep it neutral through a unified Arab decision, because unless the stand toward the United States is unanimous, its efficiency will be limited, and because discordant Arab stands on such an important issue, beside being a mark of disintegration and fragmentation, are a clear indication of a weakness which will enable the adversary to maneuver and to exploit to his advantage.

[Question] Before the tyrannical Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution and its attempt to occupy Lebanon, the Arabs denounced and shouted against Zaire's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel. Why haven't diplomatic relations with the United States been severed since it is the only supporter of Israel and the motive behind Israel's continued aggressions on the Arab homeland?

[Answer] Such a question must be answered by the whole Arab nation because any unilateral decision will be futile, particularly if the Arab countries announce the severance of relations with the United States while they remain linked with it commercially and economically. Severing diplomatic relations is not the only way to pressure the United States.

[Question] Most people notice that our information media are unable to crystallize and define our country's policies and moves and its national and international stand at the foreign level. What is the president's view on what the information media should be, particularly at this decisive stage of our country's history?

[Answer] This can be true if it is compared to the situation of other countries and their foreign information media campaigns. However, what defines our policy in this regard is prior development [programs] because we are not ready to squander large amounts of money on foreign information media campaigns, especially at a time when we know very well that our relations with all countries are the closest and strongest ones. The information media are represented by international relations and stands and not by words.

[Question] Many political observers think that the rest of the Arab countries must follow our country's national, Pan-Arab and international stands since our country's policy is clear and sincere. What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] We have no comment on this; we do not like to comment on such questions in as much as we are pleased over any success our foreign policy achieves because we consider this a success for all Arab countries.

[Question] You announced on the 19th anniversary of the glorious 26 September revolution that the people's general congress will be held during our people's celebrations of the 19th anniversary of the revolution. [Sentence as heard.] Recent press reports indicated that the congress will be held before the month of Ramadan. Can you tell us the exact date of this congress? Is it true that a political organization will spring from it? What is the program of this organization and what are its goals?

[Answer] (?intensified) Efforts are being made to hold the people's general congress. We are trying to hold this congress--which will be held during the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 26 September revolution--through popular democracy, which will crown the successes of the 26th September revolution with the [word indistinct] theory of national action in the Yemeni arena.

As for the second part of the question, this will be answered by the congress through its approval of the national charter in its final form.

CSO: 4400/353

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

PLO REPRESENTATIVE PRAISES COUNTRY'S STANCES

GF040555 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Text] PLO representative in San'a' brother Hikmat Zayd has praised the YAR stances, under the leadership of the brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, toward the Palestinian revolution and the Zionist invasion of the Lebanese territories.

In a statement published in the weekly paper 13 YUNU, he said: "The YAR announced from the beginning [of the fighting]--through a statement issued by President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih--the placing all [of] its capabilities at the service of the battle of honor and dignity which is being fought by the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces on the Lebanese territories. We can say that the role played by the YAR in this field is one to be emulated, for when the recruitment centers were opened for the Yemeni youths, they responded in huge numbers. We also received financial and moral support from the YAR Government and fraternal Yemeni people." Brother Hikmat Zayd added: "I do not reveal a secret when I say that Yemeni combatants fought alongside their brothers in the [Palestinian-Lebanese] joint forces and took part in honorable battles which coming days will unveil and demonstrate the heroism shown by these combatants and their Palestinian and Lebanese brothers." He stressed that this YAR position is not new. He said: "Everybody knows that hundreds of Yemeni combatants used to stand by their brothers of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement before the outbreak of this battle. This comes in light of the courageous decision undertaken by brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih through allowing the recruitment of YAR youths in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution and regarding those martyrs as being martyrs of the immortal revolution of 26 September."

CSO: 4400/353

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

NEW IRAQI ENVOY--YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received the credentials of (?Basim) Jasim Husayn as ambassador extraordinary and commissioner of Iraq to YAR. [GF281751 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jun 82]

CSO: 4400/353

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